

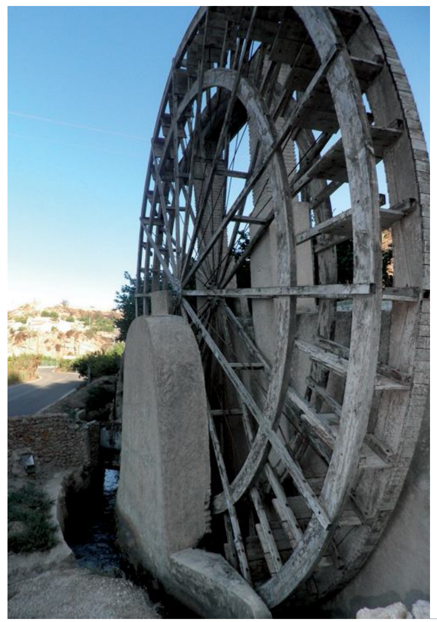
Discovering

Blanca

10 routes to discover its natural and cultural wealth

Prof. Dr. José Molina Ruiz ▪ Prof. Dr. Mª Luz Tudela Serrano ▪ B.Env.Sc. Virginia Guillén Serrano









Ayuntamiento de Blanca

Discovering Blanca.
10 routes to discover its natural and cultural wealth



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Gratitude
To Blanca's City Council
To the painter D. Pedro Cano for his generosity and permission to reproduce the images of The Lemons and The Pomegranates.
To the Pedro Cano Foundation.
To Blanca's Official Chroniclers D. Ángel Ríos Martínez and D. Govert Westerveld.

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Dedication

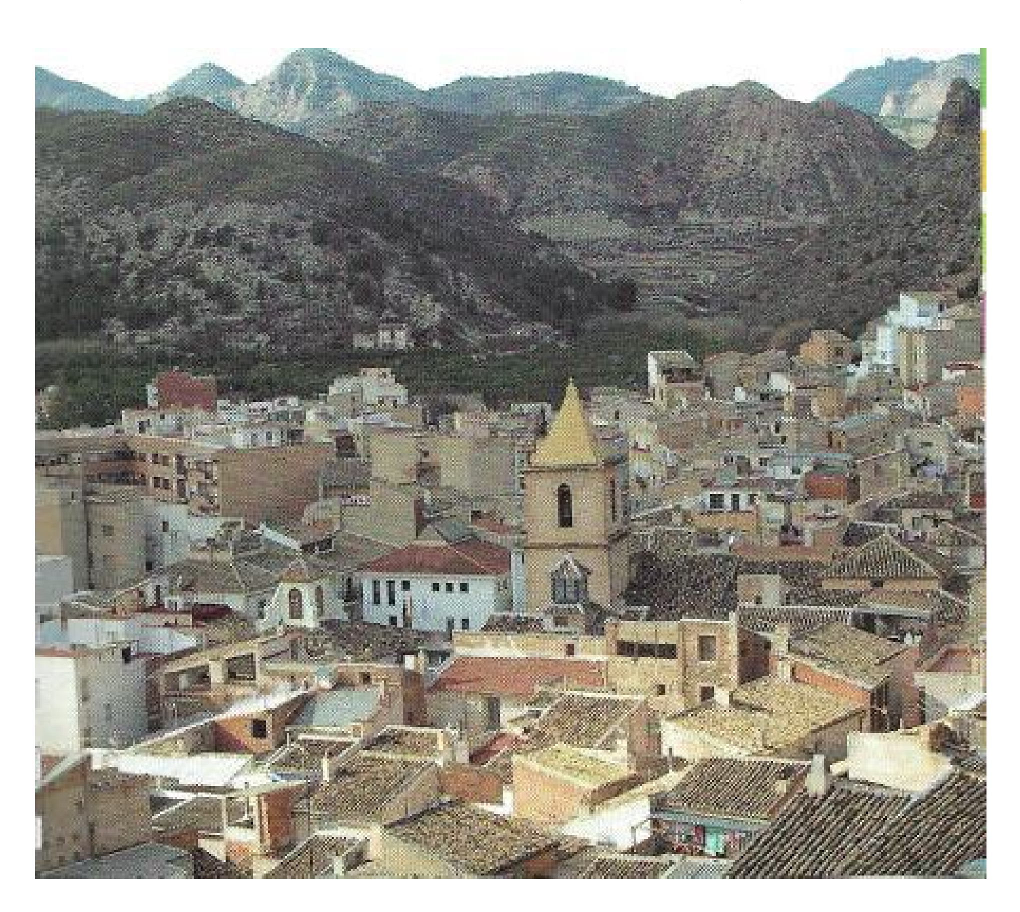
To those who like nature

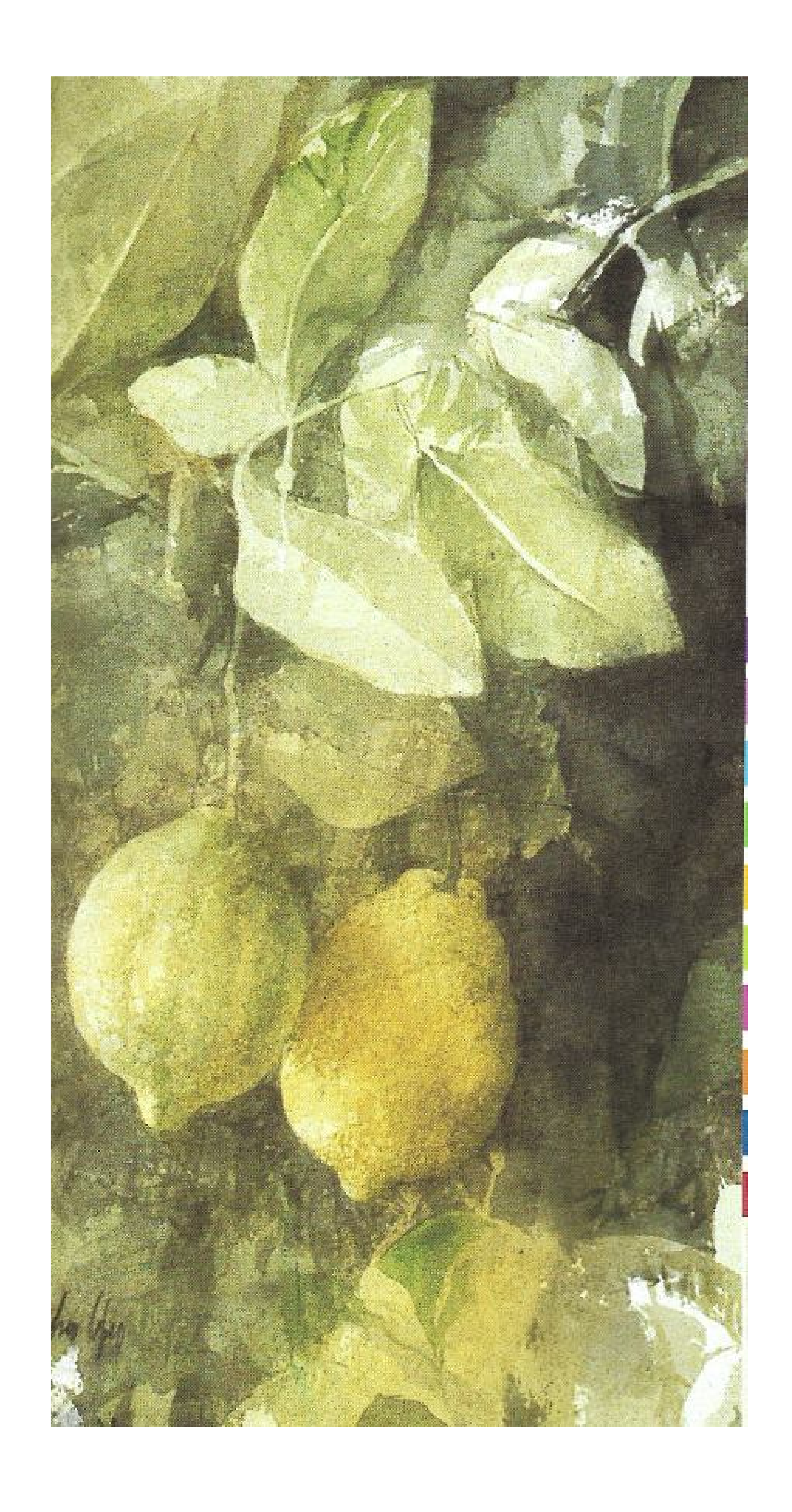
Presentation

This guide aims to allow to admire and enjoy historical areas and traditions following an itinerary connecting areas with various attractions for those who wish to appreciate and learn from our traditions, cultural values, and natural heritage, and finishing in the words of Prof. Dr. José Molina Ruiz:

Blanca with its medieval streets that sleep in the mountains of Solán and seek shelter in the Peña Negra and the Castle. Blanca, its river, its market garden over a thousand years old, a legacy of the efforts of men and women. Lemon, trees, oranges, fruit trees and vegetables forming a beautiful tapestry in its landscape sprinkled with date palms, centenaries old watchers that remember their Moorish roots. Blanca is its origin, its market garden, and its river.

Govert Westerveld
Chronicler of Blanca (2002-2019)





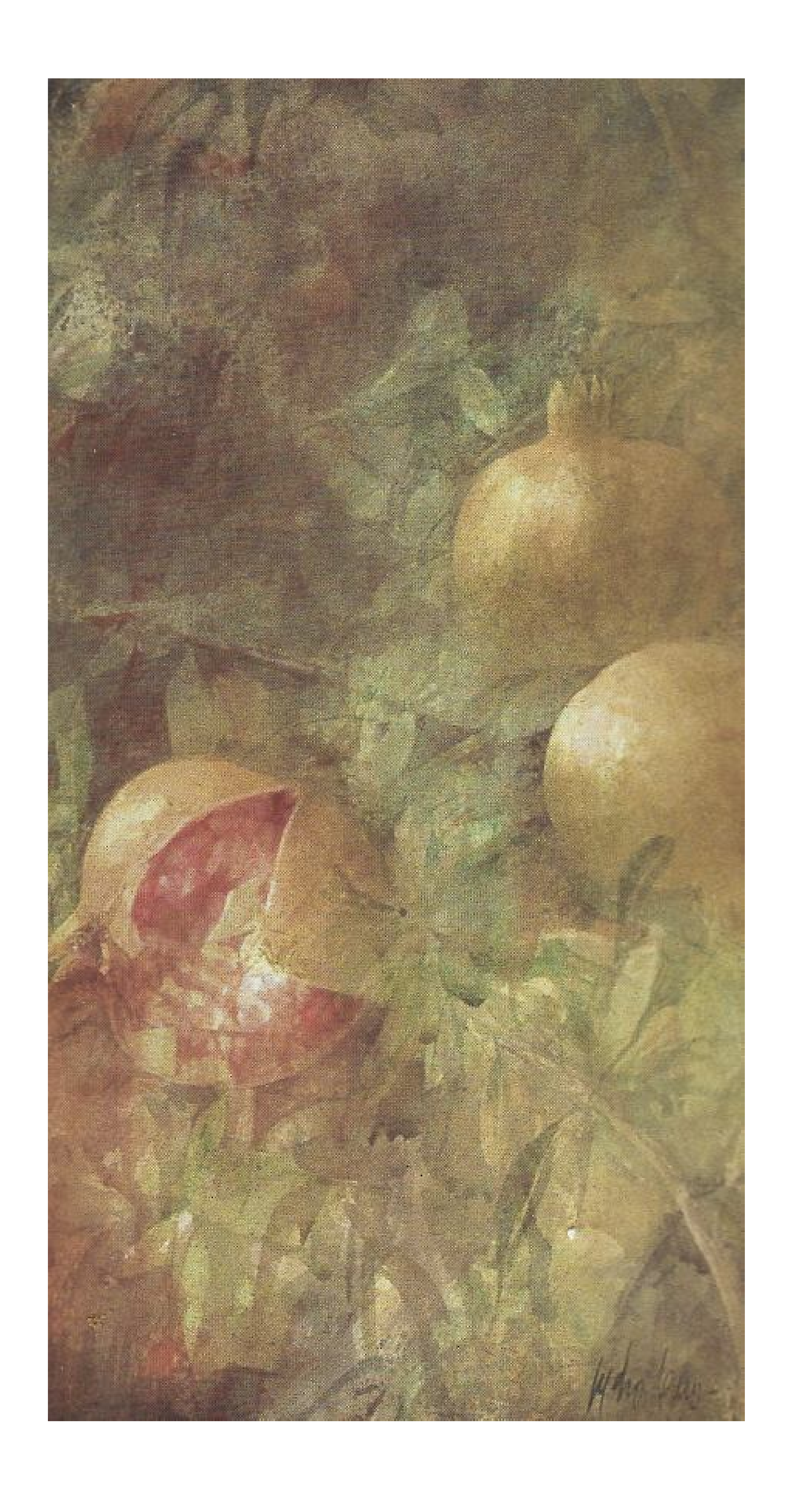
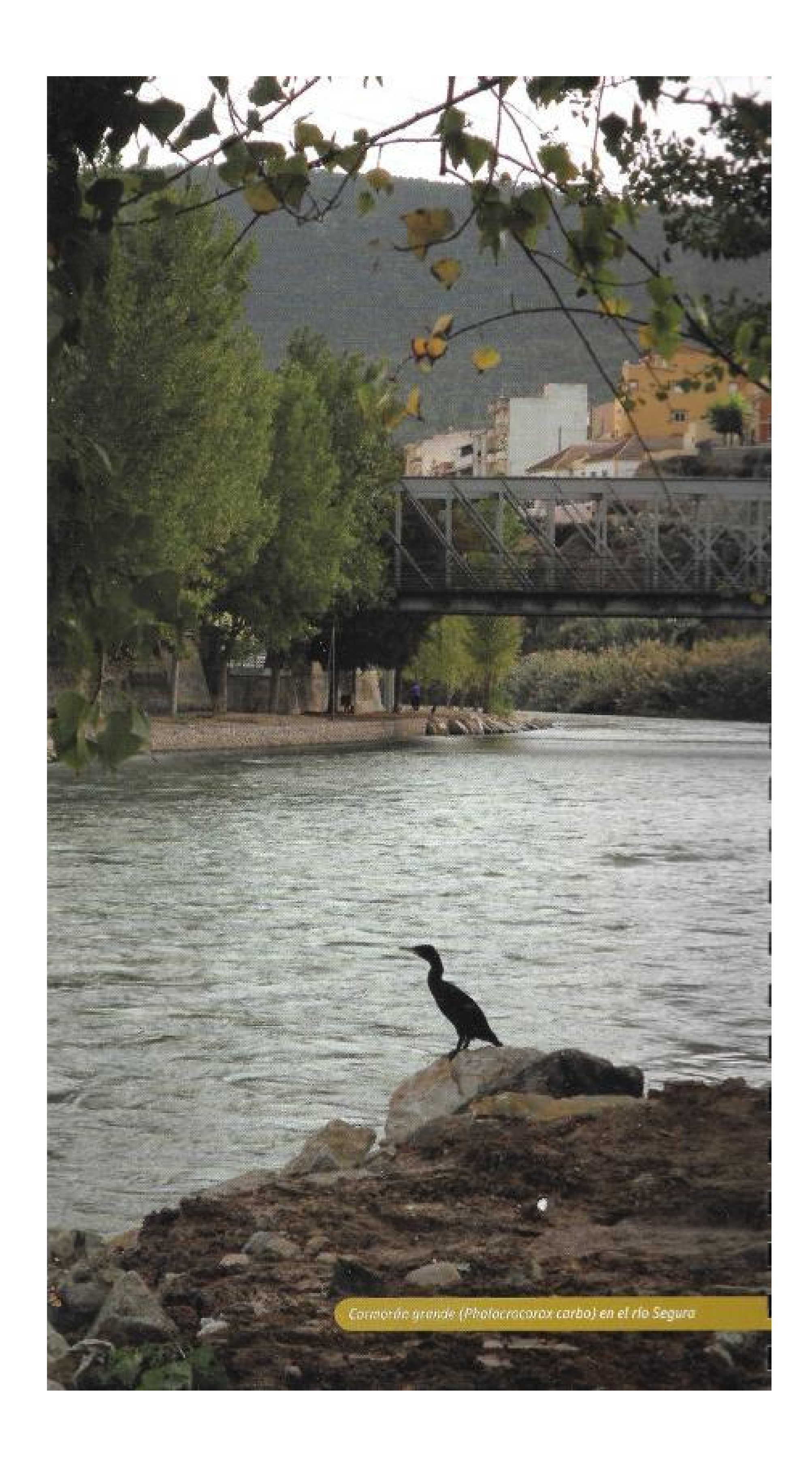
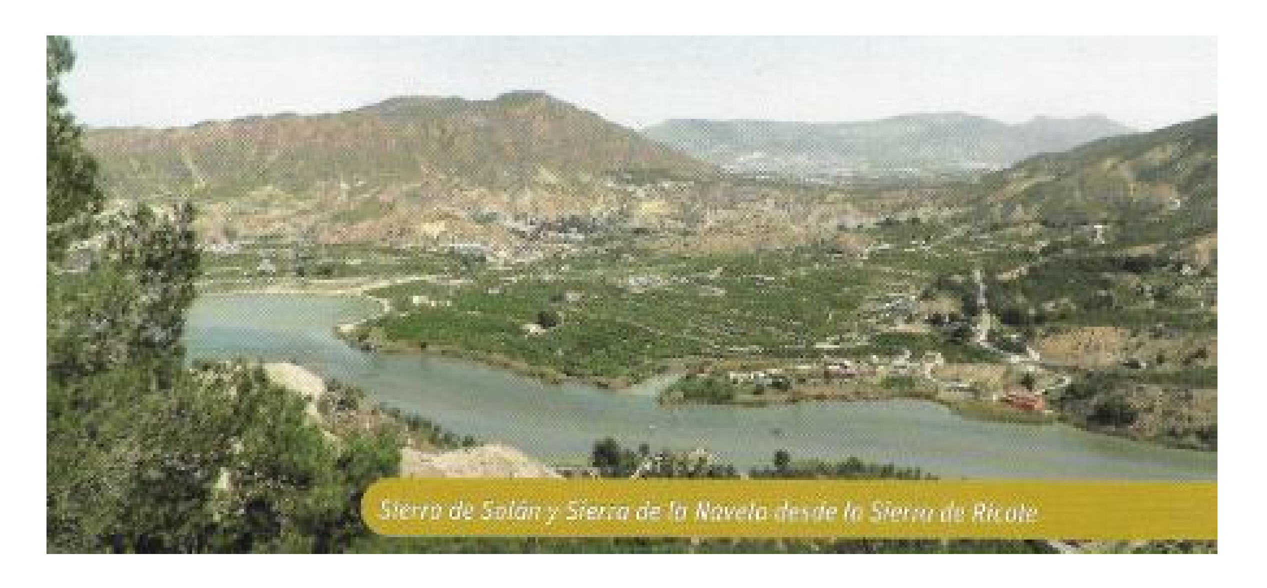


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Cormorán grande (Phalacrocorax carbo) en el río Segura

1 GEOGRAPHY, ECOSYSTEMS, AND LANDSCAPE



Sierra de Solán y Sierra de la Navela desde la Sierra de Ricote

The municipality of Blanca is located in the Ricote Valley region on the left bank of the river Segura in the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia. It has an area of 87.7 km^2 and an average altitude of 230 meters above sea level. It is accessed by the A-30 Albacete-Cartagena Highway, exit 110/111, and borders the municipality of Abarán in the north, those of Ulea and Ojós in the south, those of Molina de Segura and Fortuna in the east, and that of Ricote in the west.

1.1 THE RELIEF

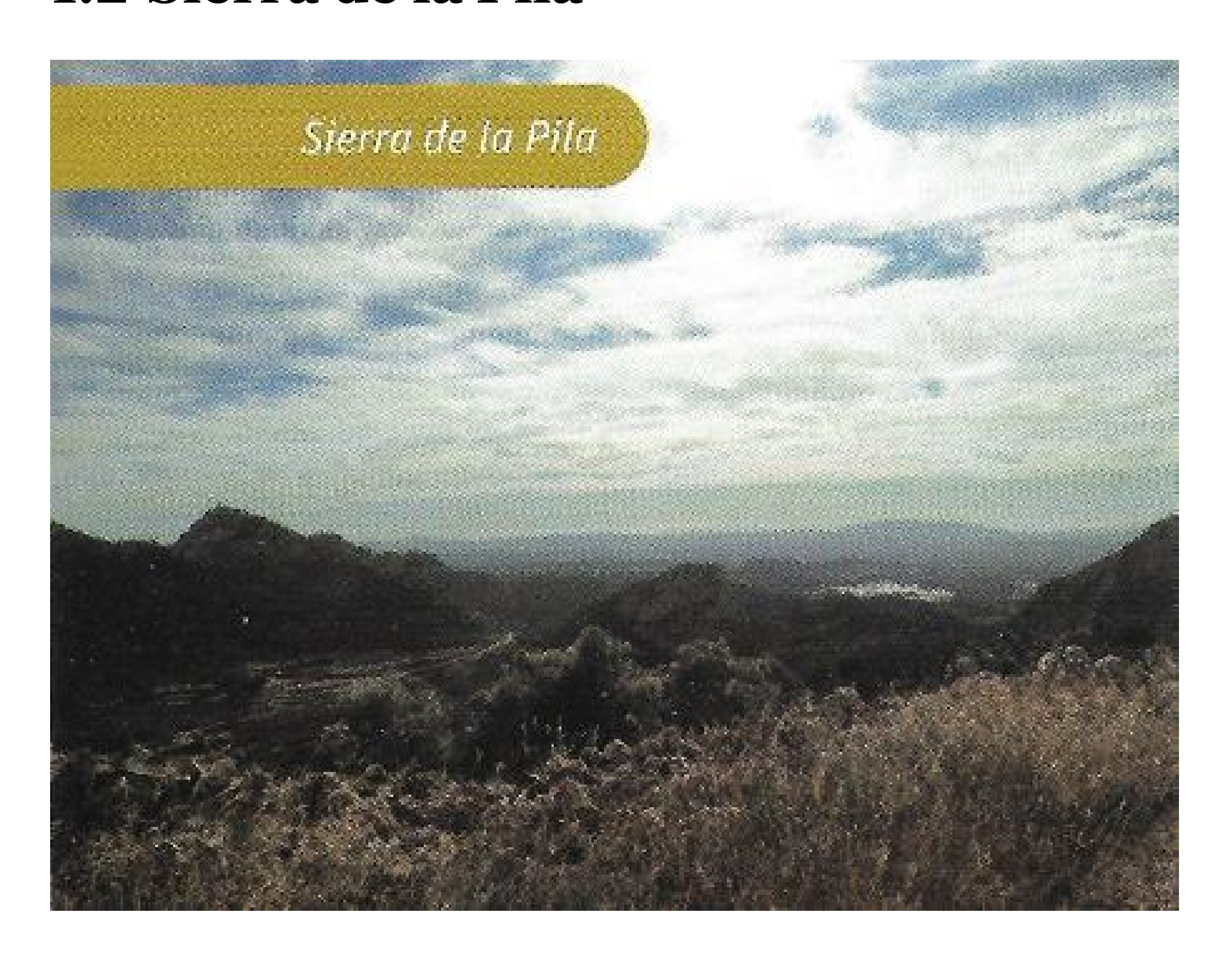
The relief is determined by the presence of the Betic Cordilleras, specifically the Southern Domain of the Pre-Betic Zone, which clearly defines the orography of the territory by its southeast-northeast direction. The geological structure is of great tectonic complexity, product of the changes experienced from the Cretaceous to the Miocene geological period. The main elevations are: Sierra de la Pila, Sierra del Solán, Sierra de la Navela, and Sierra de Ricote.

The Southern Domain of the Pre-Betic Zone is in the Sierra de La Pila. Its lithology is made of massive limestone belonging to the Middle Eocene. The External Sub-Betic is represented to the east of the municipality and in the vicinity of the Azud de Ojós reservoir. It corresponds to the Lower Cretaceous with the lithology of marls, marlaceous lime, clayey and sandy marls. The Middle Sub-Betic appears in the central area of the municipality and constitutes the Triassic clay complex “Keuper” facies of loams and gypsum clays with important masses of white gypsum. Its aspect is variegated and it presents carnioles and volcanic rocks (ophites). The Neogene is located to the west in the Sierra de Solán with the lithology of silty sandstones, calcarenites, and marls.

Quaternary deposits are located in the central and eastern zones, forming alluvial fan systems and glacis, as well as colluviums and foothill deposits, associated with mountain fronts. River terraces appear on the river Segura and on the Rambla del Salar (dry salty riverbeds).

Among the various factors of edaphogenesis, the original material plays a decisive role in the formation and diversification of soils, as well as the vegetation, climate, and time of formation. Depending on the nature of the lithological material, the following types of soil are differentiated: Regosols - soils that have been little developed on marly lithology located to the west in the surroundings of the river Segura; Fluvisols - soils of great agricultural interest on alluvial materials in the surroundings of the Segura river bed and in the Barranco del Mulo river; Solonchacks - soils formed on lithological material containing soluble salts, provided by a brackish water table or by irrigation water, are located in the northern half and in the vicinity of the Rambla del Salar; Leptosols - appear in areas with steep slopes and heavily eroded surfaces on consolidated calcareous rocks, mostly in the Sierra de la Pila; and finally Xerosols - soils formed on limestone sediments, generally suitable for cultivation and occupying the central area of the municipality.

1.2 Sierra de la Pila



A steep mountain range with steep slopes that presents lithological substrates of limestone, dolomites, sandstones, and marl, among which gypsum is interspersed. These materials have after undergoing different erosive processes produced a wide variety of forms of karst modeling (caves, chasms, and galleries) as well as ravines, gullies, and dry riverbeds. It is one of the enclaves of great geological importance in the Region of Murcia (Arana *et al.*, 1992). It is a Regional Park and Site Community Interest (SCI) "SCI ES6200003 Sierra de la Pila".

La sierra de Pila stands out mainly for the presence of pine forests (*Pinus halepensis*), "Espartales" (*Stipa tenacissima, Lygeum spartum*), and rupicolous vegetation. The most outstanding and the best conserved plant communities are the holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) and junipers of black juniper (*juniperus phoenicea*) from the summits, with the "Tomillares"

(*Thymus vulgaris*) in the gypsiferous outcrops and the cat's claw communities (*Sedum sediforme*) that are usually associated with junipers. It is an area of great floristic wealth, with numerous exclusive endemisms such as the Murcian cantueso (*Thymus moroderi*), the rock rooster (*Linaria cavanillesii*), or the rock geranium (*Erodium saxatile*) (Sánchez *et al.*, 2020).

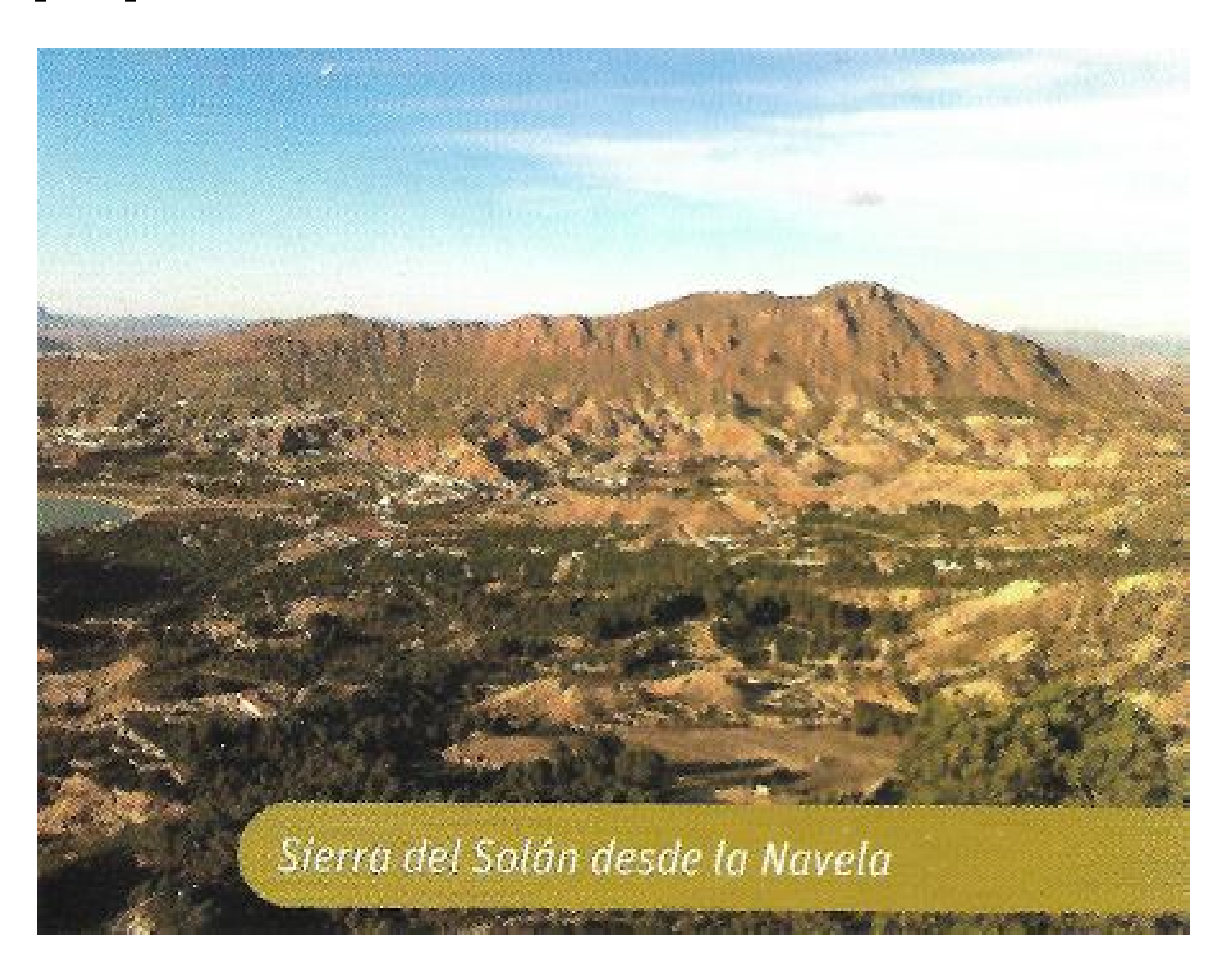
As for fauna, there is a remarkable group of birds of prey, such as the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), or the eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*), included in Annex I of the Birds Directive (Directive 79/409 / CEE). In its rocks there is one of the most important populations of red-billed chough (*Pyrrchocorax pyrrchocorax*) with a colony of over 100 nesting pairs, which is the criterion that has allowed the Sierra de La Pila to be designated as a Special Protection Area for Birds (Zona de Especial Protección para las Aves, ZEPA ES620000174).

It is home to populations of large horseshoe bats (*Rinolophus ferrumequinum*) and cave bats (*Minopterus schreibersii*) and of an invertebrate called great capricorn (*Cerambix pig*), all of them included in Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora).

1.3 Sierra del Solán

The Sierra del Solán is a mountainous formation to the north of the urban nucleus of Blanca. With steep slopes and numerous ravines its highest point is 554 meters. Its lithology of marl and limestone gives it a character of instability and erodibility, to which the arid climate and torrential rains add. Together with the Sierra de la Navela it forms part of the "Monte Público n° 41: La Navela y el Solán" over 928ha.

The vegetation is a mat of esparto grass (*Stipa tenacissima*) and perennial grass (*Lygeum spartum*) almost constant up to the upper rocky ridge, repopulated with pines (*Pinus halepensis*) as an additional measure to the levees installed to stop erosion. In addition, aromatic shrubs such as rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), lavender (*Lavandula dentata*), thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) and Nerium oleander, the white wormwood (*Artemisia herba-alba*), asparagus (*Asparagus horrindus*), felty germander (*Teurium capitatum*), Cat thyme (*Teucrium pseudochamaepytis*), and a semiarid shrub (*Anthyllis custisoides*) also grow in the region. The presence of a striking parasitic plant known as the yellow broomrape (*Cistanche phelipaea*) stands out (Alcaraz *et al.,* 1997).


Sierra del Solán desde la Navela

The Eurasian crag martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*), the Alpine swift (*Tachymarptis melba*), the blue rock thrush (*Monticola solitarius*), and the black wheatear (*Oenanthe leucura*) nest on its crest. You can also see a multitude of passerines such as the European serins (*Serinus serinus*) and the European goldfinch

(*Carduelis carduelis*) and birds of prey such as the buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) or the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in the area.

This area is the primary habitat of the 6220* Pseudo-steppe grasses and annuals of the *Thero-Brachypodietea*: 52207B *Teucrio pseudochamaepityos- Brachypodietum ramosi** (Bolós, 1957), and 522224 *Lapiedro martinezii-Stipetum tenacissimae* (Rivas-Martí) Alcaraz *et al.,* 2008).

1.4 Sierra de Ricote and Sierra de la Navela

These two Sierras are located to the south of the municipality and included in the Natura 2000 Network as "SCI ES62000026 Sierra de Ricote - La Navela" and "ZEPA ES620000257 Sierra de Ricote - La Navela" due to the presence of the species of the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) and the Eurasian eagle owl (Bubo bubo).

They are covered by a dense mass of pine forest (Pinus halepensis) with spots of holm oak (Quercus ilex). The spartals disappear to make way for the lentisk (Pistacia lentiscus), Asphodel (Asphodelus aestivalis), the strawberry tree (Arbutus unedo), black hawthorn (Rhamnus lycioides), or the turpentine tree (Pistacia terebinthus) among other species. The presence of ironwort (Sideritis glauca) included in Annex II of the Habitats Directive stands out.

The fauna is represented by raptors, golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), and Bonelli's eagles (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*). The group of chiroptera is also very important, consisting of the large horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferruquinum*), the Mediterranean horseshoe bat (*Rhinolopus euryale*), the Mehely’s horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus mehelyi*), the common bent-wing bat (*Miniopterus schereibersii*), the bigeye buzzard

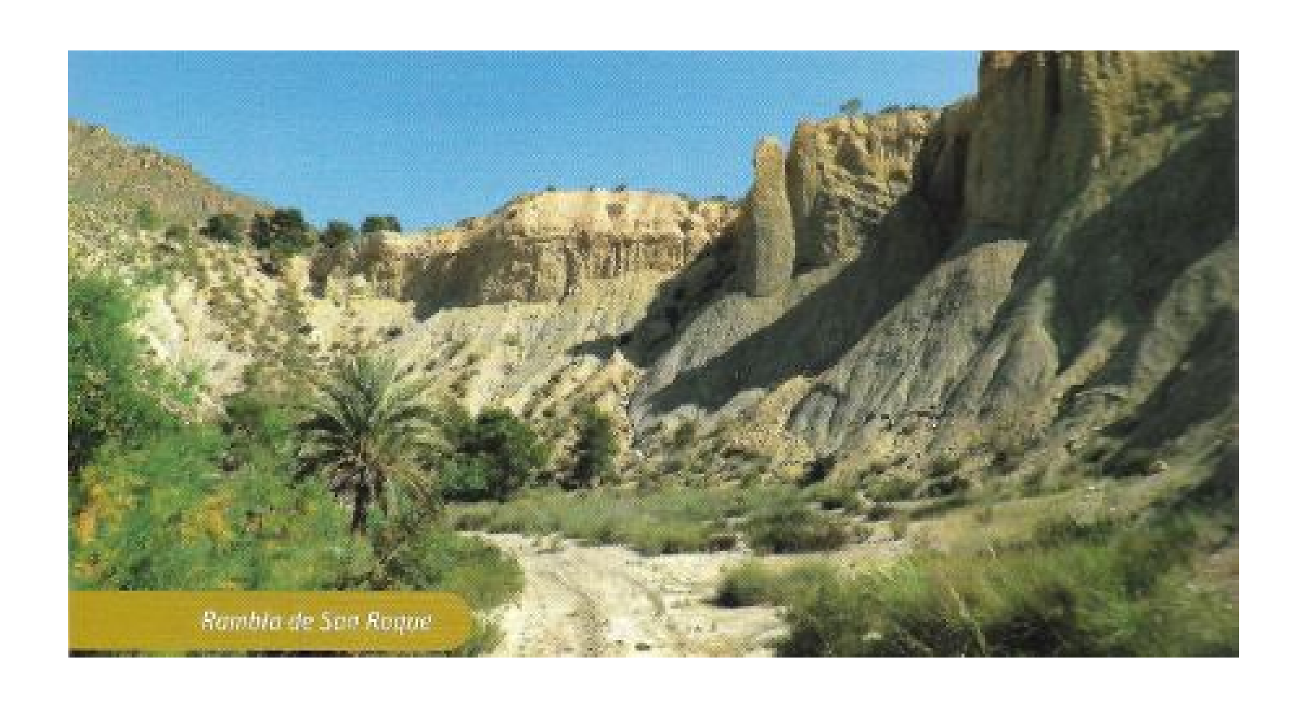
bat (*Myotis capaccinii*), and long-fingered bat (*Myotis emarginatus*), all protected internationally and autonomously.

The habitats are considered a priority: 150* Iberian gypsum vegetation (*Gysophiletalia*). 152043 *Teucrio verticillati - Thymetum pallescentis** (Bellot, Esteve, and Rivas Goday in Rivas Goday and Esteve, 1968), 6220* Substeppic and annual areas of grasses of *Thero-Brachypodietea.* 52207B *Teucrio pseudochamaepityos - Brachupodietum ramosi** (Bolós, 1957), and 522224 *Lapiedro martinezii - Stipetum tenacissimae* (Rivas-Martínez and Alcaraz, 1984).

To the east is the "LIC ES62000042 Yesos de Ulea" characterized by landscapes where saline and gypsum steppe formations stand out. It spans the area of 771.5ha of which 127ha belong to the municipality of Blanca and the rest to the municipalities of Molina de Segura and Ulea. 98% of its surface is occupied by habitats of community interest (Alcaraz *et al.,* 2008).

1.5 THE CLIMATE

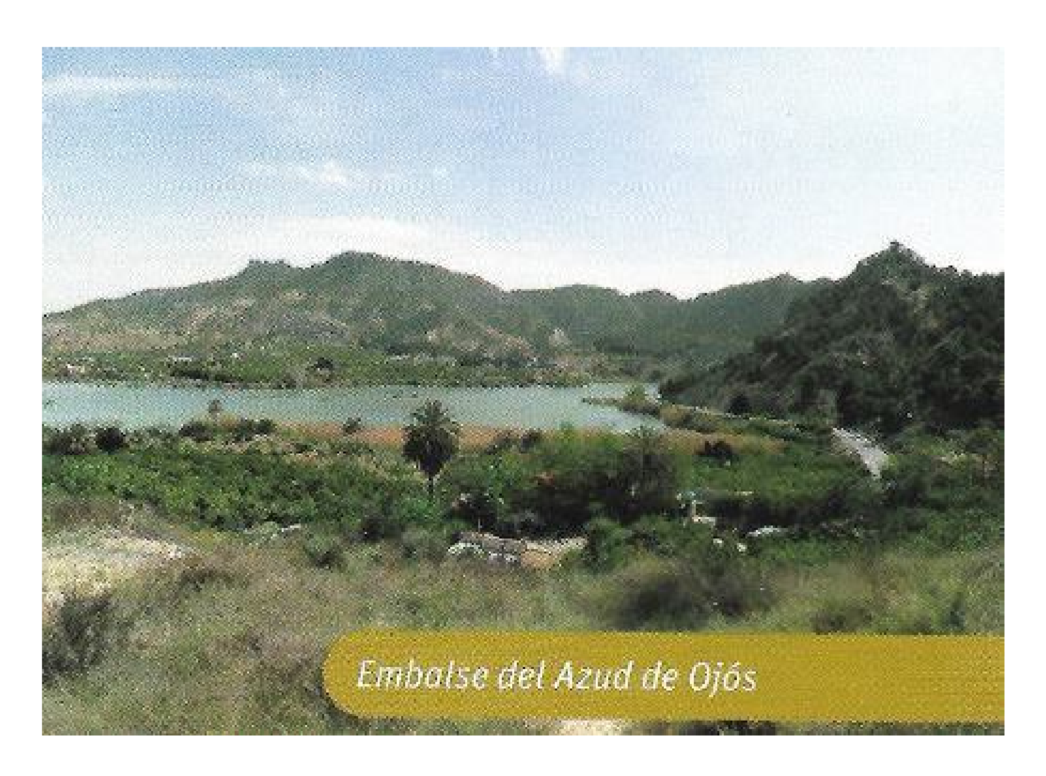
The climate is semiarid Mediterranean, although already bordering on arid which characterizes the southern segment of the province of Murcia. 335mm of precipitation are distributed over approximately 38 days with the highest concentration of rain in the equinoctial seasons of spring and autumn. Two facts characterize the pluviometric regime of the segment: the torrential character of the rains as they can fall in just hours, and the irregularity year over year of rainy or relatively humid years and years of extreme drought. The average annual temperature is 18°C with moderate winters (4°C on average in January) and hot summers (27.1°C on average in August). Low rainfall and relatively high temperatures cause potential evapotranspiration of approximately 932mm indicating a significant water deficit.



1.6 WATERWAYS AND BODIES OF WATER

The river Segura runs west of the municipality and next to the urban nucleus where it widens due to the "Azud de Ojós" reservoir enclosed by a dam bearing the same name. The water of this river with its geomorphological processes, associated biological communities, and agricultural uses creates and maintains the wide diversity of landscape, flora, and fauna of this enclave in the Region of Murcia. Associated with the river and the reservoir are the riverside habitats and fauna communities of aquatic birds, dense reed beds (*Phragmites australis*), and reed beds (*Arundo donax*), of which tarays (*Tamarix boveana, T. canariensis*), poplars (*Populus nigra*), and pines (*Pinus halepensis*) stand out. One can see the Nerium oleander, honeysuckle (*Lonicera biflora*), and saltbush (*Atriplex halimus*) at the mouth of the dry riverbeds and ravines. The characteristics of the reservoir water determine the appearance of communities of planktonic organisms and aquatic plant communities of *Potamogeton nodosus* and of *Cladophora glomerata* when the current is more intense.

We observe a high number of species protected by legislation or of great interest for their nest conservation year after year in this oasis, among which the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), the bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), and the cattle egret (*Bulbulcus ibis*) stand out. It is home to the main population of the Murcian region of swamphen (*Porphyrio porphurio*) and a winter refuge for species as impressive as the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) or as characteristic as the common coot (*Fulica atra*).

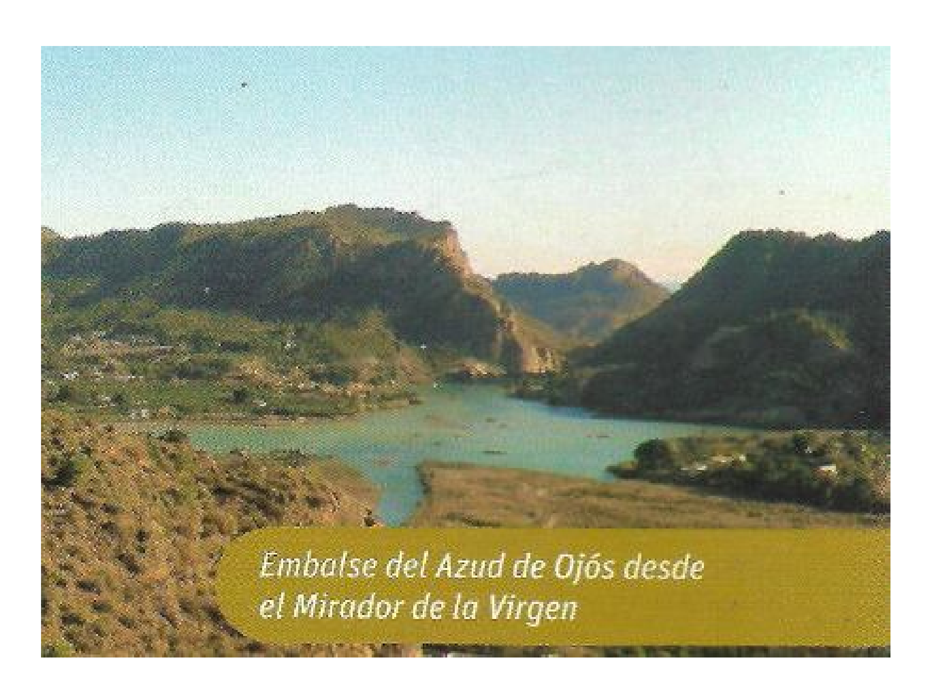


There are birds such as the common mosquito net (*Phylloscopus collybita*), the wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), the common blackbird (*Turdus merula*), or the wryneck (*Iynx torquilla*) in the vegetation surrounding the reservoir. As for other vertebrates, the water rat (*Arvicola amphibius*), the water snakes (*Natrix natrix, N. maura*), and the Caspian turtle (*Mauremys caspica*) have been seen. Populations of the otter (*Lutra lutra*) associated with the reservoir have also been detected.

One type of habitat, declared as priority, stands out, - 7210* Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and *species* of the *Caricion davallianae* [Cladium mariscus]: 621123 *Typho-*

Schoenoplectetum glauci (Br. - Bl. and Bolós, 1958) (Alcaraz *et al.,* 2008).

The rest of the riverbeds are temporary. There are the following watercourses and ravines: Rambla (Watercourse) de Multas or Rambla de la Tejera, Rambla del Puente or Rambla de Ambrós, Rambla de San Roque, Rambla del Salar, Rambla de la Cerverosa, Barranco (ravine) del Pantano, or Rambla de la Cañada de Miñano, Barranco de la Navela, Barranco del Javé, and Barranco del Mulo among others.


Embalse del Azud de Ojós desde el Mirador de la Virgen

Rambla del Salar is partially protected by the Natura 2000 Network and marked as SCI "ES62000042 Yesos de Ulea" due to the presence of landscapes where formations of saline and gypsum steppes with understepic areas of annual grasses stand out. There are also thermophilic gypsicular thyme shrubs, underwater grasslands typical of these somewhat saline soils, pre-desert shrubs, and the typical vegetation of salt marshes. These salts have been used by the inhabitants of the area as inland salt exploitations (Gómez and Gil, 2010). In general, there are the Nerium oleanders, reeds (*Arundo donax, Phragmites australis*), rushes (*Juncus maritimus, J. ubulatus, J. acutus, and Scrippus holoschaenus*), the tamarisk tree (*Tamarix boveana, T. canariensis*), myrtle (*Myrtus communis*), and elm (*Ulmus minor*) in these watercourses and ravines.

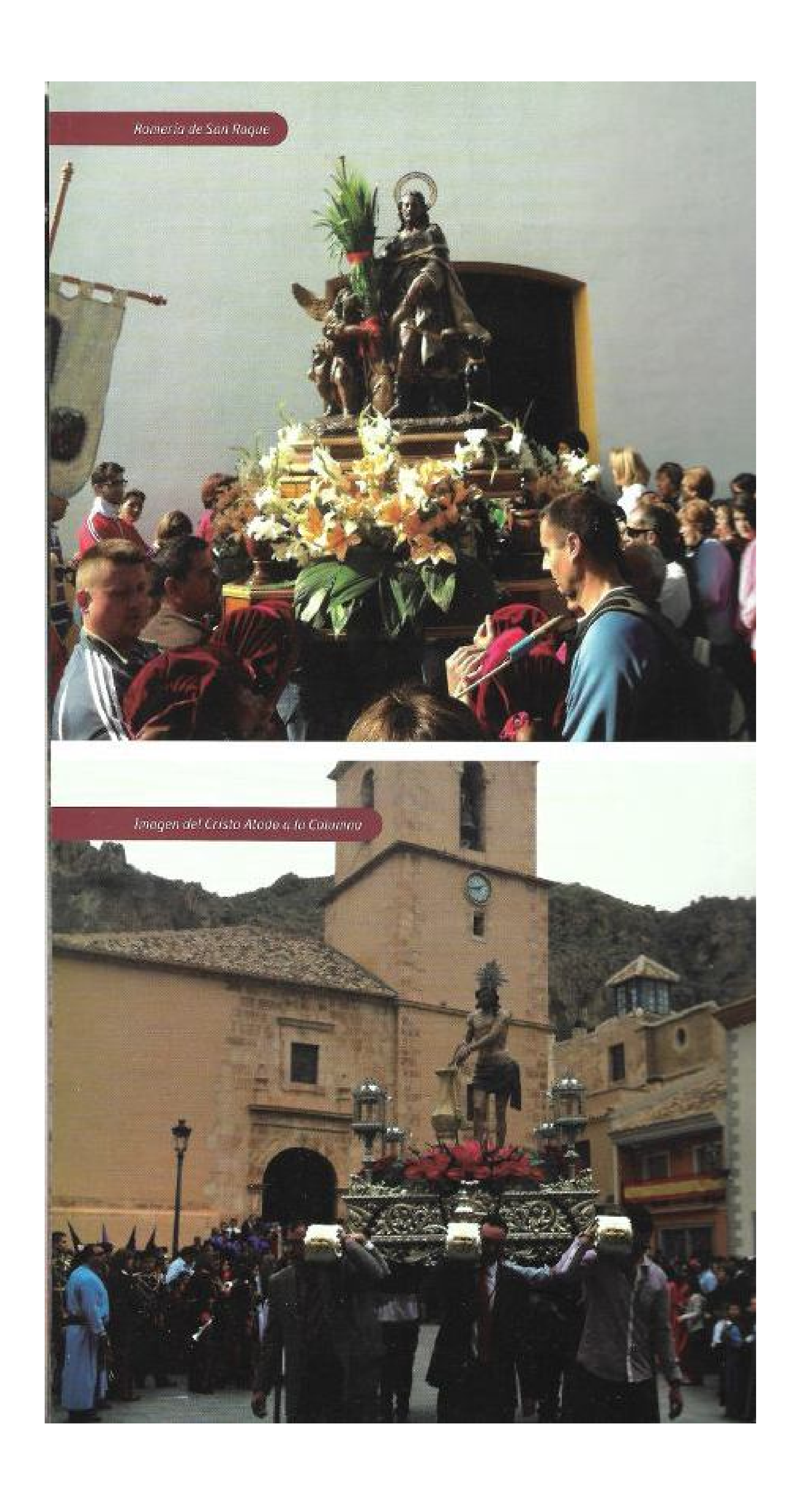
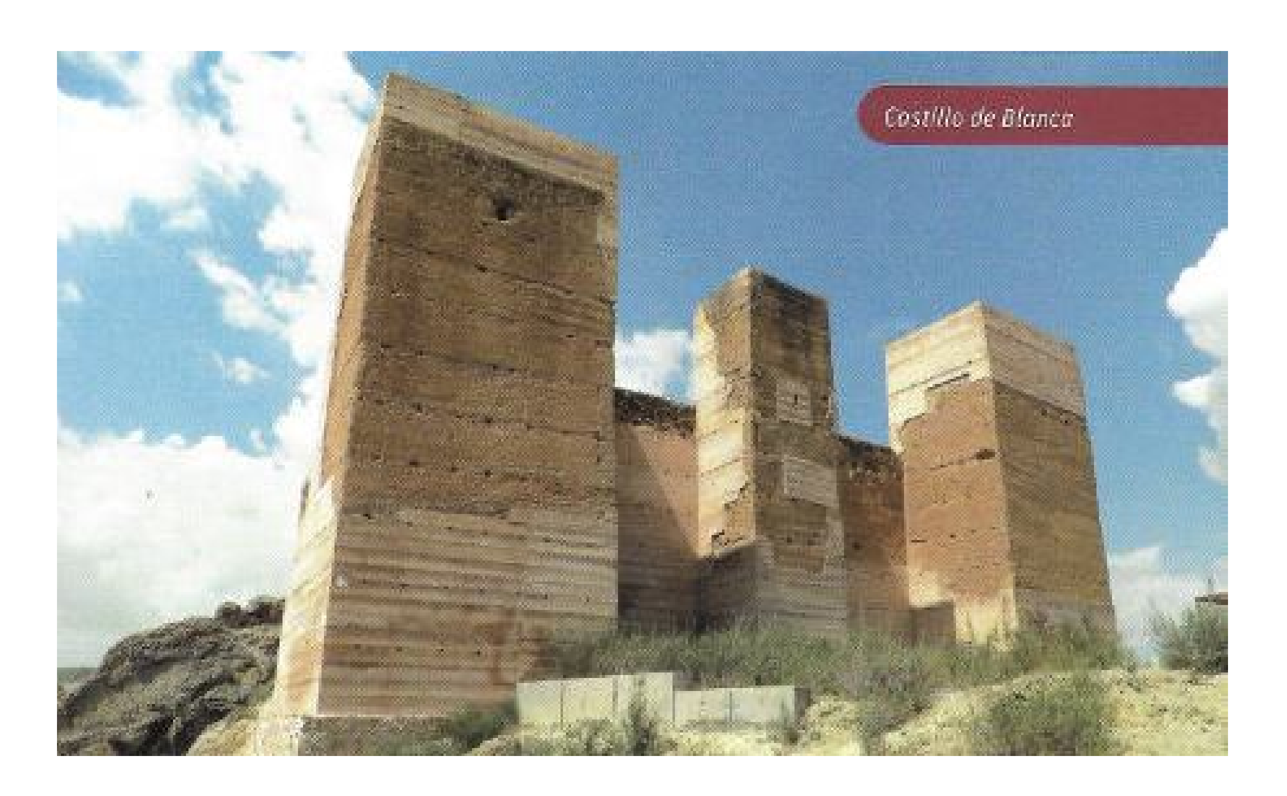

Romería de San Roque

Imagen del Cristo Atado a la Columna

2 PLACES AND EVENTS OF INTEREST



PLACES OF INTEREST

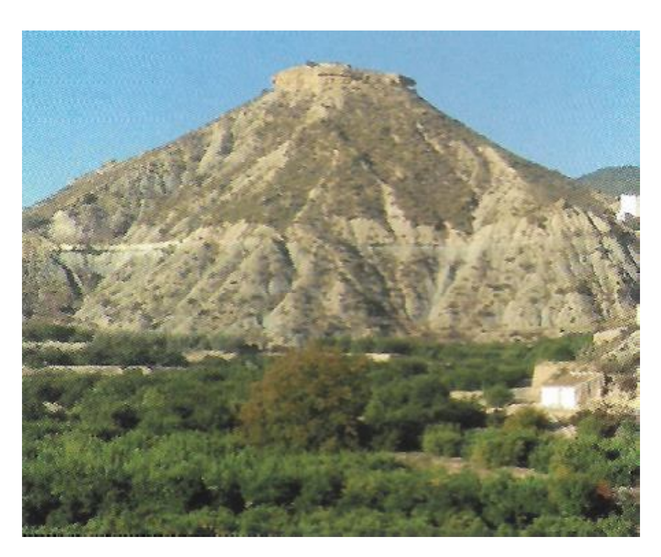
2.1 Castle

Address: Cerro de la Peña Negra

It is located 223m above the *Peña Negra* of the *Sierra del Solán*, dominating the center of the current village of Blanca. Its origins date back to the Islamic period (12th century) when a fortified structure was built as part of the defense of the Ricote valley carried out by the Muslims who populated the area. Its strategic position, dominating a good part of the high plain (vega alta) of the river Segura and the Ricote valley as well as the communication routes with the lands of Jumillas made it a permanent watchtower and refuge for the inhabitants of the place, responding to the typology of the "Islamic hisn". After the Christian reconquest it became a symbol of the Order of Santiago (Ríos, 2003; De Meulemeester et *al.,* 2006). It has been declared an asset of Cultural Interest since 1997.

2.2 Cabezo de la Cobertera

Address: Road MU-514, between Blanca and Abarán



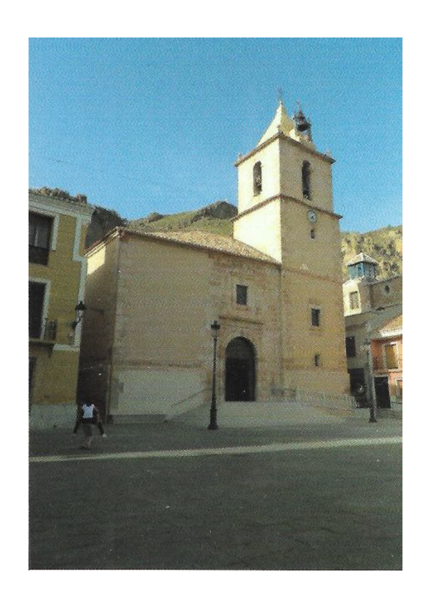
It is a witness hill where a fortified granary belonging to the Islamic farmhouse of Andarraix is located, a construction built around the 13th century (in the Almohad period) on what could have been an ancient Iberian settlement.

The site is made up of more than thirty cells for the storage of grain and a cistern. The complex is surrounded by a wall that, together with its location high up, makes this place an ideal refuge at times of conflict, as well as an excellent strategic point from which you can control a good part of the river plain, the towns of Abarán and Cieza, and the castle of Blanca.

2.3 The Church of San Juan Evangelista

Address: Plaza de la iglesia

The primitive church of San Juan Evangelista was built in 1508 on an old Mudejar mosque and rebuilt between the 17th and 18th century by the stonemason brothers Lucas and Antonio de la Lastra, highlighting its humble and severe baroque appearance unrelated to the pomposity of the 18th century. It is a temple with three naves with a rectangular floor plan as well as its head. The central nave is covered with a vaulted ceiling and the lateral naves with a barrel vault with lunettes.



The top is domed over with a simple vaulted ceiling and the transept with a half-orange dome over pendentives in which four oculi open. The Baptistery chapel is covered with a groin vault. The interior is decorated with frescoes by the Lorca painter Manuel Muños Barberán. An image of Christ tied to the Column by Francisco Sánchez Tapia and the Virgen de la Soledad by Sánchez Lozano stand out.

2.4 The Waterwheel of Miguelico Núñez

Address: Road RM-514 Spot "Las Canales"

Built in the 17th century, it was restored in 2002, once again fulfilling its function of extracting water for irrigation using the traditional system (Montaner, 1989 and Martínes, 2003). It raises the water from the main irrigation ditch par of Blanca and is peculiar for housing the buckets that transport the water on a single side of the crown.

2.5 Hermitage of San Roque

Address: Intersection with National Road N-301



Baroque style construction dating from the first half of the seventeenth century in honour of the patron saint of the village of San Roque. It consists of a single nave covered with a barrel vault and a transept with a hemi-spherical dome. The presbytery is square, closed with a barrel vault and lunettes.

2.6 Emblazoned Houses

Address: In the heart of Blanca

These are buildings included in the Real Estate Catalog, considered of great importance for the preservation of Blanca's historical heritage. Most of them are located in the streets: Mayor de Blanca, Anguillara Sabazia, Nueva de Blanca, Plaza de la Iglesia.

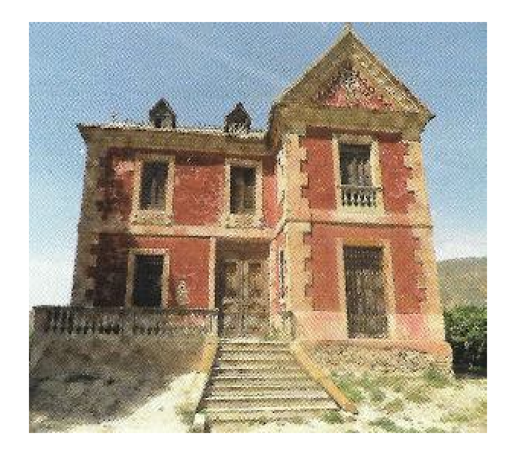
2.7 The House of the Count of Vallesa

Address: C / Mayor, 54

It was built in the 19th century as a mansion for the family of Enrique Trénor and Lamo de Espinosa, Conde de la Vallesa. It is a neoclassical building that served as a dining room for soldiers from the Canary Islands during the Civil War and was transferred to the City Council in 1997. It has been restored and transformed into a Rural Inn and had a restaurant serving Basque cuisine of recognized quality. In its orchards of more than 2,000m² there is a casuarina (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) more than 130 years old and 25m high.

2.8 La Favorita and La Molineta

Address: "El Saque" area, near the Azud de Ojós.



La Favorita is a suburban house built at the end of the 19th century for the rest of a family of noble lineage, the Counts of Vallesa. Its eclectic style and garnet and white color stand out from the green landscape. The house has a simple staircase distributed between two floors and an attic, alternating the smooth facing with

stonework. The side façade and the central part are crowned with a triangular frontpiece and abundant decorative motifs. Next is the house of La Molineta, a construction of singular beauty that harmonizes with the fertile orchard in which its blue colour stands out.

2.9 The House of Don Carlos

Address: Barrio del Alto Palomo, on the shores of Ctra. MU-520 (Road to Ojós)

Manor house built at the end of the 19th century. Its orchards are inspired by the Real Alcázar of Seville and the Generalife of Granada, in which the araucaria - a monumental tree from the Murcia region stands out.

2.10 The City Hall building

Address: C / Anguilara Sabazia, 7

Built between the late 19th and the early 20th century, it embodies an eclectic style with Baroque reminiscences. It was acquired by the former mayor of Blanca, Julio Molina Núñez, in 1950 and expanded in 2001.



2.11 The Hydraulic Power Plant. Light Factory

Address: Av. Río Segura S / N

The old Hydraulic Power Plant, located on the banks of the river Segura, has been converted into a Museum and Interpretation

Center for Water and Light. Visitors are invited to learn about the running of water as a motive energy and the relationship between the existing cultures of the area, as well as the dynamics and utilisation of water throughout the history of the town. It also houses the tourist office.

2.12 The Iron bridge

Address: C / Frutas del Levante (Road RM-553)

This bridge was built in 1934 by means of riveting, a technique that consists of joining metal pieces through steel rivets. The technique fell into disuse in the sixties with the introduction of welding (Grupo de Trabajo "Valle del Segura", 2009). The construction of this bridge was fundamental to the establishment of communities with the rest of the population of the Ricote Valley.

2.13 The Victoria Theater

Address: C / Teatro, 15



The building of this theater dates to 1937. The façade consists of three axes, pointing out the central one in which two viewpoints overhanging from the façade are molded with three windows each. It is finished with a wavy ridge with six peaks at its vertices. It was restored in the late 90s, its facilities were modernized, and it reopened in April 1999.

2.14 The Blanca Museum (MUCAB)

Address: Avda. Del Río Segura (without number)/
www. fundacionpedrocano.es

Blanca's new art center in its avant-garde style is a multicultural setting and a place for meeting and disseminating culture. It houses the municipal music school, classrooms for learning language, and the Pedro Cano Foundation which was born with the mission to exhibit and disseminate the internationally recognised work and career of the Blanca painter. The Pedro Cano Foundation has become an active cultural reference where workshops, book presentations, and temporary exhibitions are permanently held related to not only art, but also anthropology, medicine, and social relations.



2.15 Centro Negra

Address: C / Castillo (without number)

The Centro Negro (Black Center) is a space dedicated to the creation and research of contemporary art whose main objective is to serve as a meeting point for artists to exchange knowledge, ideas, and sensations. Located at the top of the old village at the foot of the remains of the castle, this art center hosts training courses, exhibitions, artistic interventions, performances, and

artists from Spain and abroad thanks to its program of residency scholarships. The artistic AADK (Architektur Der Kultur / Arquitectura Cultural Actual) is based in Berlin with the Black Center as a permanent space for research and contemporary creation in Spain (AADK Spain).

2.16 The Viewpoint of the White Virgin

Address: Sierra del Solán.

The viewpoint of the White Virgin (Mirador de la Virgen Blanca) is a viewpoint crowned by the image of the White Virgin cast in artificial stone which has presided over it since the mid 1980s. Access is by foot either by the staircase that leads from the medieval quarter to the castle or by the Isidro gorge and ascending the north face of the Sierra del Solán.

2.17 Viewpoint of the Ojós' Dam

Address: Sierra de la Navela.

The Viewpoint of Ojós' Dam (Mirador del Azud de Ojós) is a small viewpoint bounded by a stone wall next to the Solvente Strait that closes the Azud de Ojós reservoir.

2.18 The Urban Viewpoint

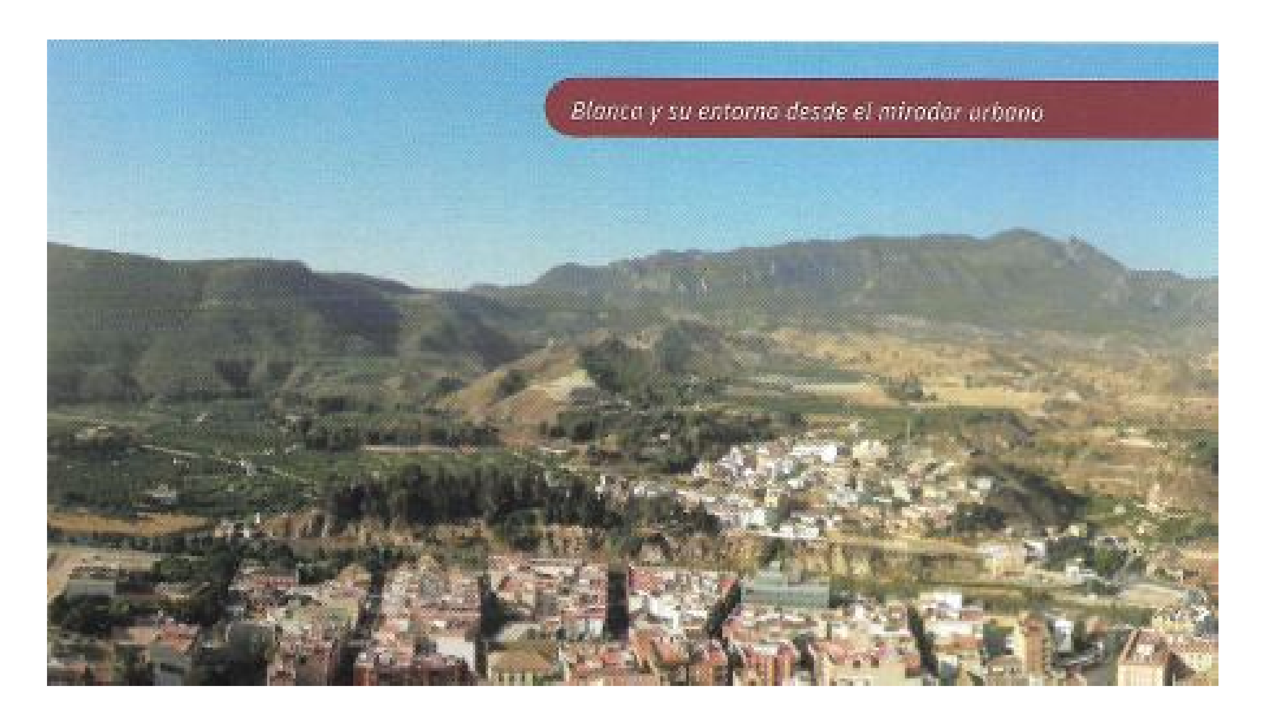
Address: Sierra del Solán, at PR-MU 24

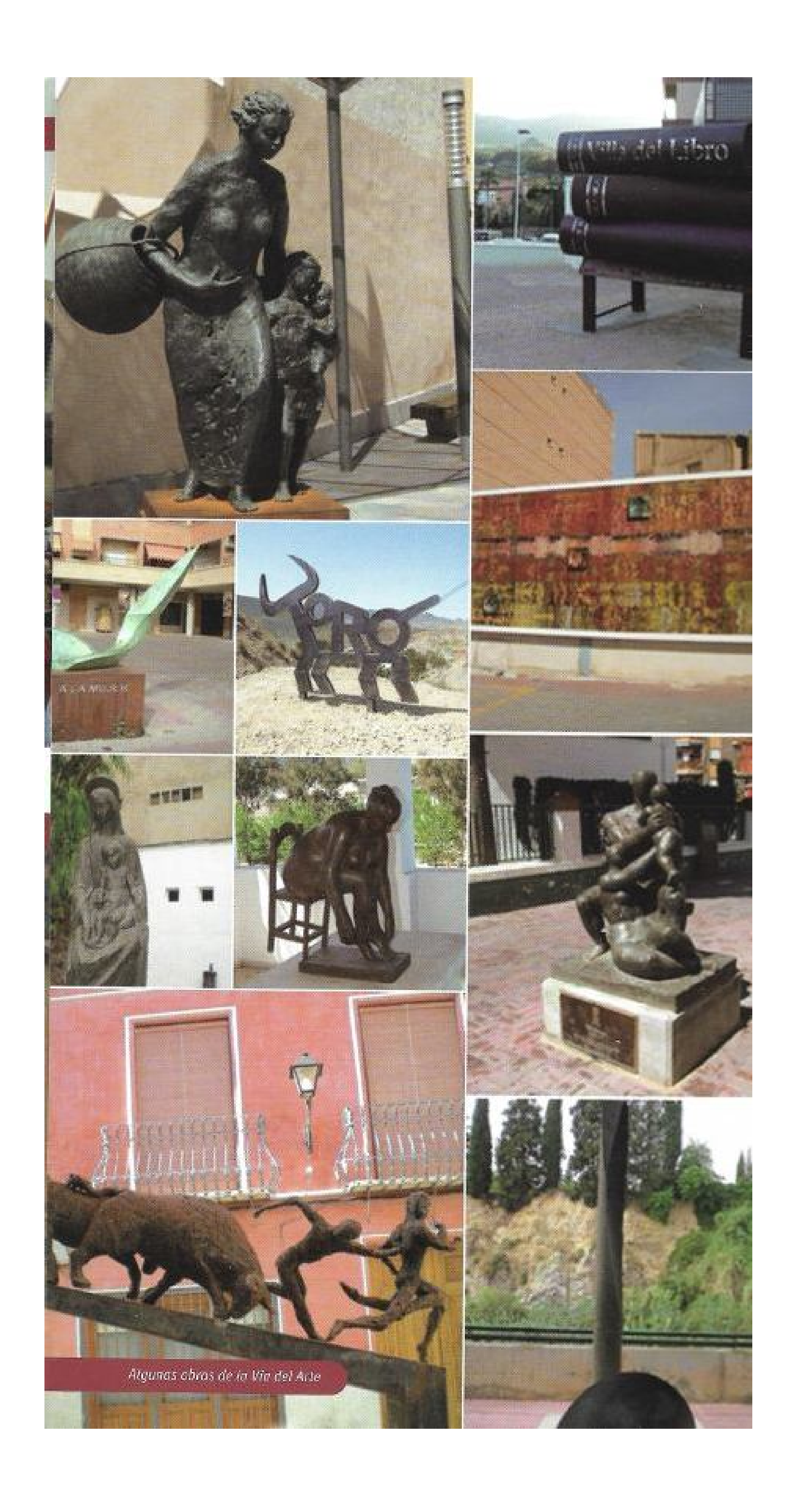
The Urban Viewpoint (Mirador Urbano) is a south-facing viewpoint located in the core of Blanca on the slopes of Sierra del Solán.

2.19 Alto de Bayna's viewpoint

Address: MU-553 road

This viewpoint is a metal walkway suspended high above the river Segura built in 2004.





Algunas obras de la Vía del Arte

3 EVENTS OF INTEREST

3.1 The Holy Week

When the time of Lent arrives, all the brotherhoods and brotherhoods of passion finish the preparations for the acts and parades full of fervor and feeling. There are eight brotherhoods and the so-called *Puja de Imágenes* (making an offer for the images) is traditional, in which the feeling of the population is demonstrated by paying to carry the weight of the chosen image on their shoulders.

3.2 Spring festivals

A week of festivities dedicated to the patron saint of the municipality begins after Easter. The most characteristic acts are the Coronation of the Queen and the Pilgrimage. During the Pilgrimage the patron saint of the municipality is taken from the church in the center of the town to its hermitage. After spending a day there tasting traditional foods (*monas*, potato *tortillas*, fried rabbit with tomato, *picantosa,* or broad beans) the patron saint returns to the town where he is greeted with joy and gunpowder.

3.3 August festivals

The August festivals take place before the 15th of August in honour of the patron saint San Roque. The bull run, declared of Regional Tourist Interest, has been celebrated for more than 300 years creating an environment where fun and joy are guaranteed. It's one of Blanca's big days.

3.4 Winter festivals

At Christmas you can enjoy various monumental nativity scenes. The one held in the Caja Murcia exhibition hall and the one in the Blanca Station stand out, among others of a particular nature.

3.5 The Art Way

It belongs to a project that emerged in 2006 - "Blanca, art day by day" that promotes the definition of the identity of the people through art. The purpose of this project is on one hand to bring art closer to and integrate the inhabitants of the town to make all artistic interventions part of their idiosyncrasy, and on the other hand to be a cultural and artistic reference in which all kinds of things are done related to culture. The works and the projected infrastructures are integrated into the space where they are located. They are one more part of the urban fabric: sculpture, painting, photography, etc.:

- The Virgin of the Little Bird: (virgen del Pajarico): Sculpture by Antonio Campillo (La Milagrosa School)

- Succión Amarillo Victoria: Sculpture by Lido Rico (Plaza Teatro Victoria)

- The Dancer: sculpture by Stephan Balkenhol (Plaza Teatro Victoria)

- Sunset in the Orchards: Sculpture by Antonio Campillo (Plaza de la Iglesia)

• With the Spring Wind: Sculpture by Gonzáles Beltrán (Town Hall Square)

• The Laundress: Sculpture by Antonio Campillo (Las Canales Laundry)

• Video art: Video of Enrique Martí (Plaza del Ayuntamiento)

• Offering. The Aroma of Roses: Painting of Abellán Juliá (Town Hall Square)

• To Women: Sculpture by Salvador Susarte (Town Hall Square)

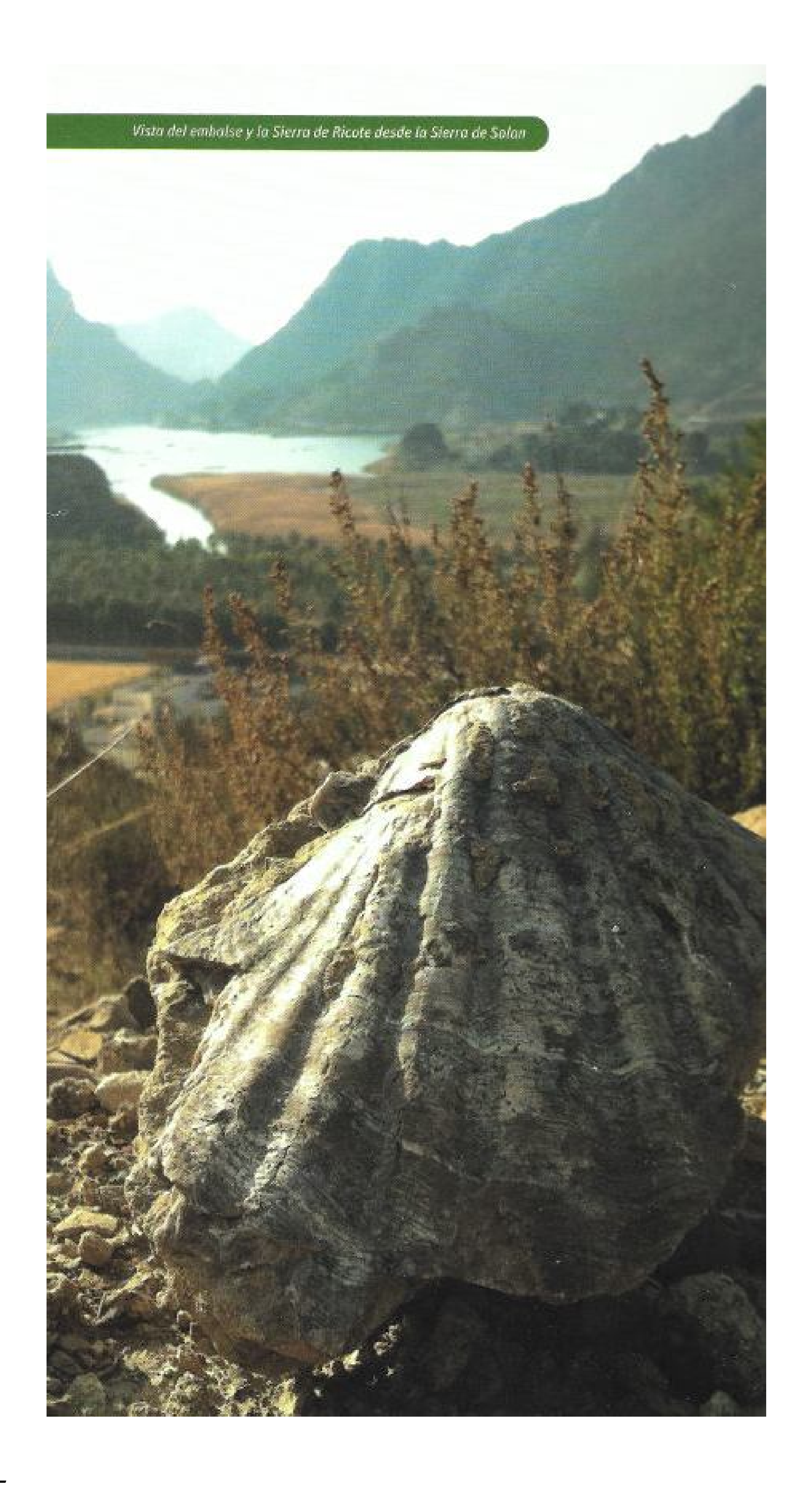
• The Family: Sculpture by Joaquín García Donaire (Antonio Molina School)

• Repulsion Exercise: Sculpture by Beernardí Roig (The Iron Bridge)

• Des (connected): Photograph by Jesús Segura (Avenue Río Segura)

• Protection. Tribute to Blanca's Farmers: Sculpture by Josep Pedrós I Ginestar (Avenue Río Segura)

• Untitled: Sculpture by Juan Asensio (Avenue Río Segura)



Vista del embalse y la Sierra de Ricote desde la Sierra de Solan

Discovering Blanca

10 routes to discover its natural and cultural wealth

4 DISCOVERING BLANCA

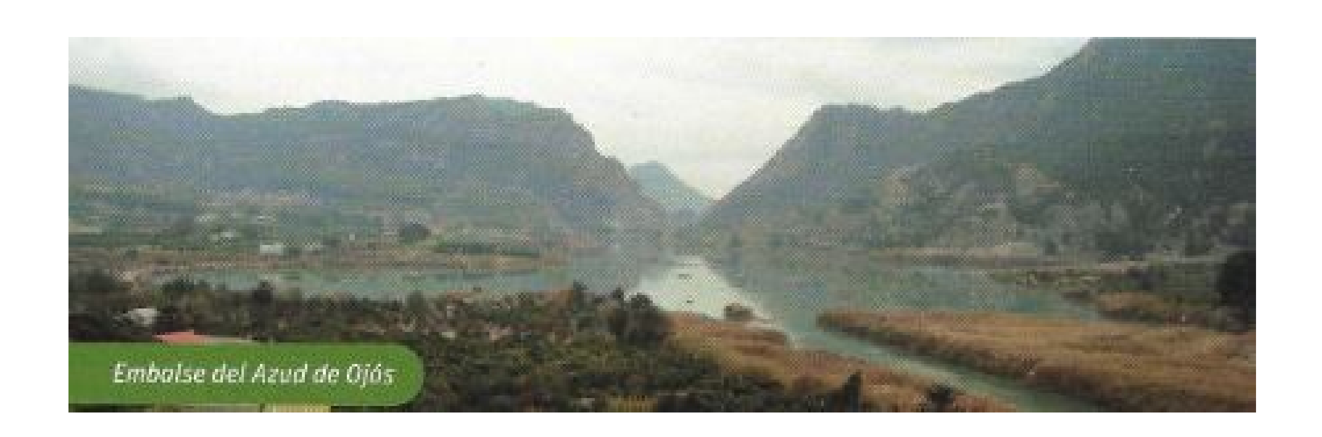
10 routes have been designed to discover Blanca that enable the visitor to get to know the municipality, showing its resources and heritage values of a marked ethnographic, ecological, historical, cultural, and landscape nature. These routes are:

1) Historic Blanca	6) Blanca and her Huerta
2) Cañada de Isidro – Blanca's castle	7) Getting to know the Sierra de la Pila
3) Bordering the Ojós' Dam	8) Sanjoy - Sierra de la Pila
4)Hermitage of San Roque - Sierra de la Navela	9) Rambla de la tejera - Cañada de Gil
5) Sierra del Solán	10) Cañada de Miñano - Sierra de Ricote

Each route is accompanied by several symbols that identify its character and difficulty.

4.1 Character

SYMBOL	CHARACTER	SIGNIFICANCE
	Educational	Connects places or elements of interest for teaching
	Fauna	Connects sites of observation of wildlife
	Cultural	Connects places or elements of high cultural value
	Historical	Connects places or elements of historical interest
	Panoramic	High importance of panoramic views and landscape
	Urban	Passes mostly through urban surroundings
	Rural	Mostly takes place in a rural environment



4.2 Difficulty

SYMBOL	IDENTIFICATION	SIGNIFICANCE
	Very easy	Manageable for the general public
	Easy	Low difficulty, but longer duration or length
	Difficult	Higher difficulty for people who do not habitually trek

All routes are available in the .gpx and .kml formats for use on mobile devices or GPS by accessing http://blanca.es/files/Turismo/RUTAS_KML/ or http://blanca.es/files/Turismos/ RUTAS_GPX /

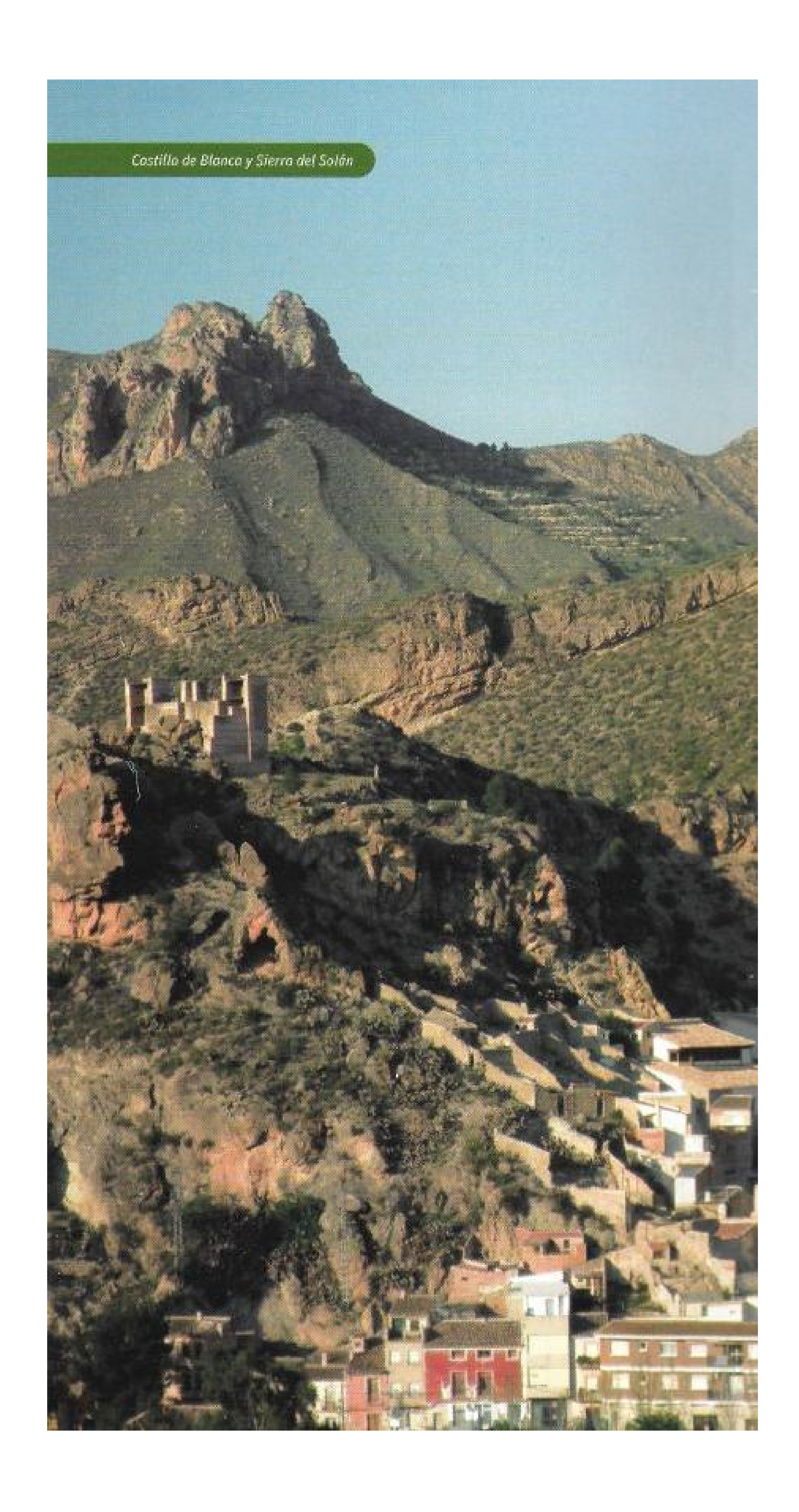
with which you can follow the routes on applications such as Wikiloc. as Wikiloc.

4.3 MIDE (Excursion Information Method)

It is a communication system among hikers to evaluate and inform about the technical and physical demands of the routes. Its objective is to unify evaluations of the difficulty of the excursions enabling hikers better choices according to their abilities and preferences.

The MIDE evaluates the following aspects on a scale of 1 to 5:

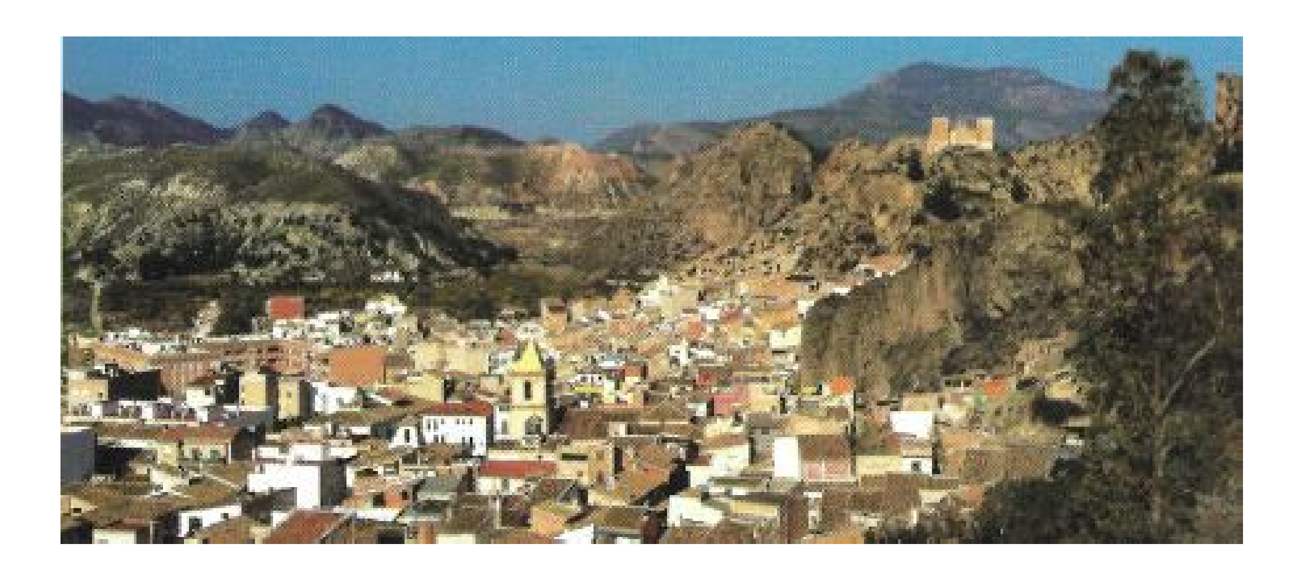
	X	**MEDIUM** Severity of the natural environment (risk factors)
	X	**ITINERARY** Orientation in the itinerary (quality of signage if any, and type of trips)
	X	**DISPLACEMENT** Difficulty of movement
	X	**EFFORT** Amount of effort


Castillo de Blanca y Sierra del Solán

5 Route 1 →

5.1 Historic Blanca

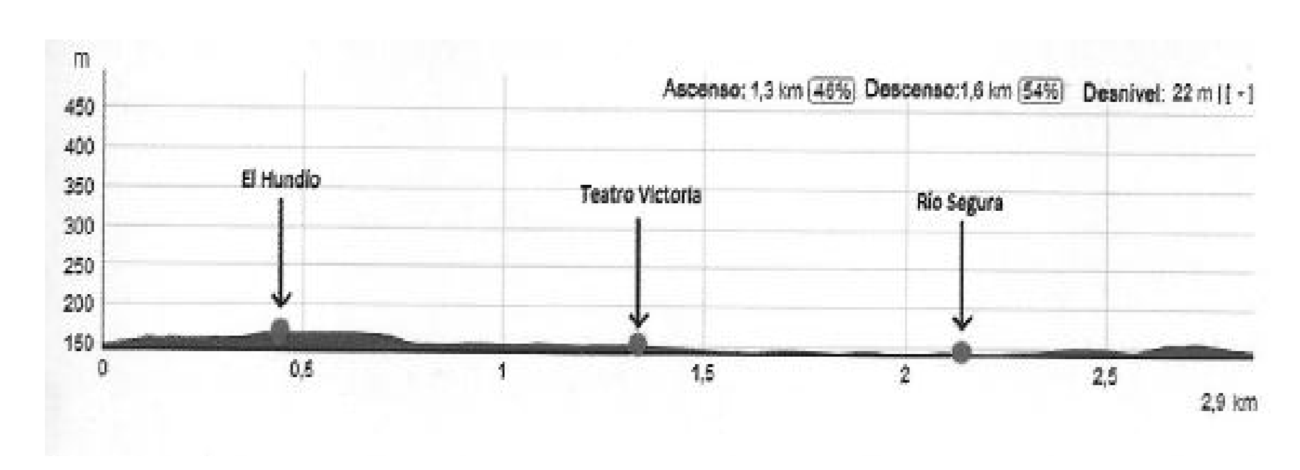
Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo ▸ *Plaza de la Iglesia* ▸ *El "Hundío"* ▸ *Gran Vía* ▸ *Teatro Victoria* ▸ *Río Segura* ▸ *El Arenal*



The route is a journey through the urban center of Blanca, offering visitors the possibility to get closer to the origins and history of the town (Westerveld, 1997 and Ríos, 2003). At the approximate length of 3km and accessibility to people of all ages it provides a general view of some of the most interesting landmarks of the city such as the Town Hall, the Plaza de la Iglesia, the Gran Via, or the section from the river Segura closest to the urban center.

	Data sheet
	Distance: 2.9km
	Approximate duration: 1 hour
	Ascent slope: 53m
	Descent slope: 53m
	Cartography: Sheet 891-III of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the MU553 road that starts from the N301 of the MU514 road Blanca-Abarán section, or through the MU520 Ojós-Blanca road.

Longitudinal profile





Tollos
del Tomaso
Noria de Miguelico Núñez
Castillo de Blanca
Cañada Isidro
Blanca
Bayna
Alto de Bayna
Runes
Puente Nuevo
Polideportivo
PR-MU 24
GR 127
Parque de las Cuevas
Mirador del Alto de Bayna
Alto Pálomo
Los Toledos
Zapato
Esfuerzo
Desplazto.
Itinerario
Medio
1
1
1
1



Ruta 1 ➲ Blanca Histórica

1 **Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo** (0,2 km). Comienza hacia la plaza contigua, donde se encuentra el edificio del Consistorio. Se continúa por la Calle de Federico Servet para girar a la derecha por la Calle del Pintor Pedro Cano, donde se encuentra la casa natal del afamado artista blanqueño. Esta calle termina en la Plaza del 18 de Julio.

2 **Plaza del 18 de Julio** (0,2 km). En esta plaza se encuentra la Parroquia de San Juan Evangelista **(A)**. Desde esta misma plaza se observa la Peña Negra, una roca feldespática de origen volcánico denominada andesita augítica, única en toda la comarca.
La ruta prosigue por la Calle del Generalísimo, donde se encuentran uno de los edificios más antiguos de Blanca **(B)**. En un edificio de esta calle con la esquina de la calle Pinar, se encontraron los restos de un cementerio árabe o "*maqbara*" que podría indicar el límite del primer asentamiento en la ciudad.

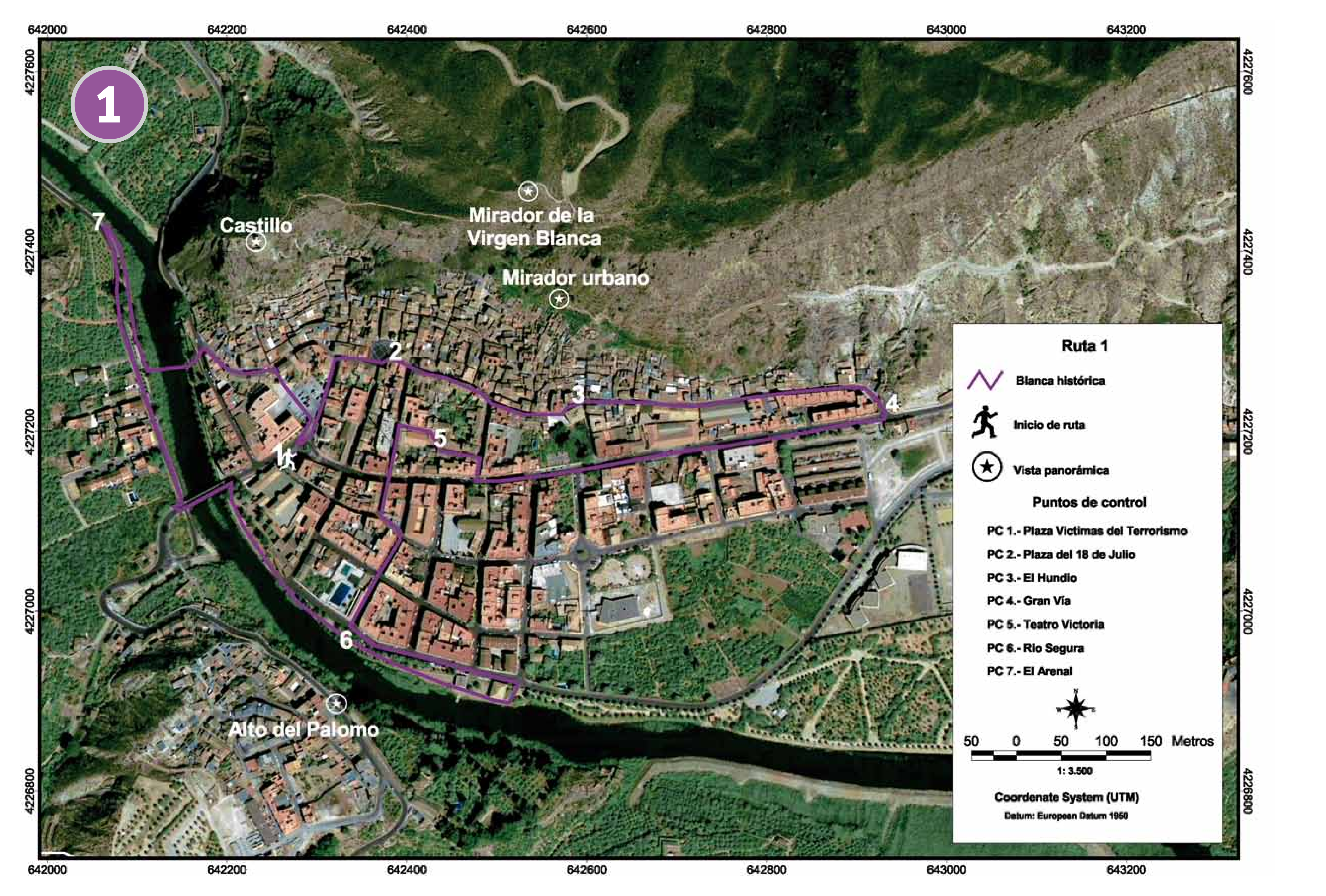
3 **El Hundío** (0,3 km). Sigue la ruta por la Calle de la Concepción, parte del barrio conocido como "El Hundío" debido a que esta zona fue sepultada tras un derrumbe de la ladera del Solán. En esta calle hay una chimenea, testigo de las actividades de la industria conservera pionera en la Región de Murcia.

4 **Gran Vía** (0,5 km). Esta calle es la arteria principal de Blanca. En ella se encuentra la Casa del Conde de la Vallesa **(C)** y más adelante el Colegio Concertado de la Milagrosa. Frente a este edificio parte la Calle de Pedro Portillo, por la que se accede a la Calle del Teatro.

5 **Teatro Victoria** (0,3 km). Esta calle, engalanada con macetones de flores dispuestos y conservados por los vecinos, lleva hasta la fachada principal del "Teatro de la Victoria[1]" **(D)**. A continuación, se gira a la izquierda por la Calle de Ortega y Gasset, antiguamente conocida como el Camino del Partidor por ser el lugar donde se dividía la Acequia de Blanca en un ramal, con dirección Este, conocido como la "Acequia del Rival". Se cruza la Gran Vía por esta calle hasta llegar a la Plaza de las Estereras o Esparteras, conocida como "Wikiplaza", donde hay un mural de 200 m^2 realizado por el pintor local Luis Molina Sánchez denominado "El Valle de las Delicias – Las 7 Maravillas del Mundo". Siguiendo por la Calle del Dr. Marañón se encuentra el Museo y Centro de Arte de Blanca (MUCAB) y la Fundación Pedro Cano. Se continúa hasta encontrar el Río Segura, en la Avenida que lleva su nombre.

6 **Río Segura** (0,8 km). En este punto hay que girar a la izquierda para visitar la Fábrica de la Luz. Tras esta visita, se vuelve sobre los pasos para continuar el trazado del Río Segura, hasta la Cafetería "El Molino", donde se encontraba un antiguo molino harinero de agua. A través del Parque Municipal se accede al Puente de Hierro **(E)**.

7 **El Arenal** (0,6 km). Mediante este puente se cruza el río Segura que se seguirá aguas arriba hasta llegar a "El Arenal", una playa fluvial natural.
Cruzando de nuevo el río a través de una de las pasarelas de reciente construcción instaladas en la zona, se llega al Lavadero de las Canales. Siguiendo la Calle del Queipo del Llano se alcanza la Plaza del Ayuntamiento y, al cruzarla, se llega nuevamente a la Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo. Fin de ruta en el useo del Agua y la Luz.



1
642000
642200
642400
642600
642800
643000
643200
4227600
4227400
4227200
4227000
4226800
Castillo
Mirador de la Virgen Blanca
Mirador urbano
Alto del Palomo
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
Ruta 1
Blanca histórica
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Plaza Victimas del Terrorismo
PC 2.- Plaza del 18 de Julio
PC 3.- El Hundio
PC 4.- Gran Vía
PC 5.- Teatro Victoria
PC 6.- Rio Segura
PC 7.- El Arenal
50 0 50 100 150 Metros
1: 3.500
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950

Route 1 → Historic Blanca

1. **Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo** (0.2km) It begins towards the adjoining square where the Consistory building is located. It continues along the street of (Calle de) Frutas del Levante and turns right onto the street of (Calle de) Pintor Pedro Cano where the birthplace of the famous Blanqueño artist is located. This street ends in the Plaza de la Iglesia.

2. **Plaza de la Iglesia** (0.2km) The Parish of San Juan Evangelista (A) is in this square. From this square you can see the Peña Negra, a feldspathic rock of volcanic origin called Augitic Andesite, unique in the region. The route continues along Calle Mayor de Blanca where the oldest buildings in Blanca (B) are located. The remains of an Arab cemetery or "maqbara" were found in a building in this street on the corner of Pinar Street, which could indicate the boundary of the first settlement in the village.

3. **El Hundío** (0.3km) It follows the route along the street of La Concepción, part of the neighbourhood known as El Hundío, because this area was buried after a landslide on the Solán slope. There is a high chimney in this street, witness to the activities of the pioneer canning industry in the Region of Murcia.

4. Gran Vía (0.5km) This street is Blanca's main artery. In it you will find the House of the Count of Vallesa (C) and farther the Concerted School of La Milagrosa. In front of this building starts tPedro Portillo through which Calle del Teatro is accessed.

5. The Victoria Theater (0.3km) This street, adorned with flower pots arranged and maintained by the residents, leads to the main facade of the Victoria Theater (D). Next you will turn left onto Calle de Ortega y Gasset, formerly known as the Camino del Partidor because it was the place where the Acequia de Blanca was divided into a branch heading east known as the Acequia del Rival. Then cross Gran Vía along this street until you reach the Plaza de las Estereras or Esparteras known as “Wikiplaza". You will see a 200m² mural by the local painter Luis Molina Sánchez called El Valle de las Delicias - The 7 Wonders of the World. Continuing along Calle del Dr. Marañón you will find the Blanca Museum and Art Center (MUCAB) and the Pedro Cano Foundation. Continuing the route you will come to the Río Segura in the avenue that bears its name.

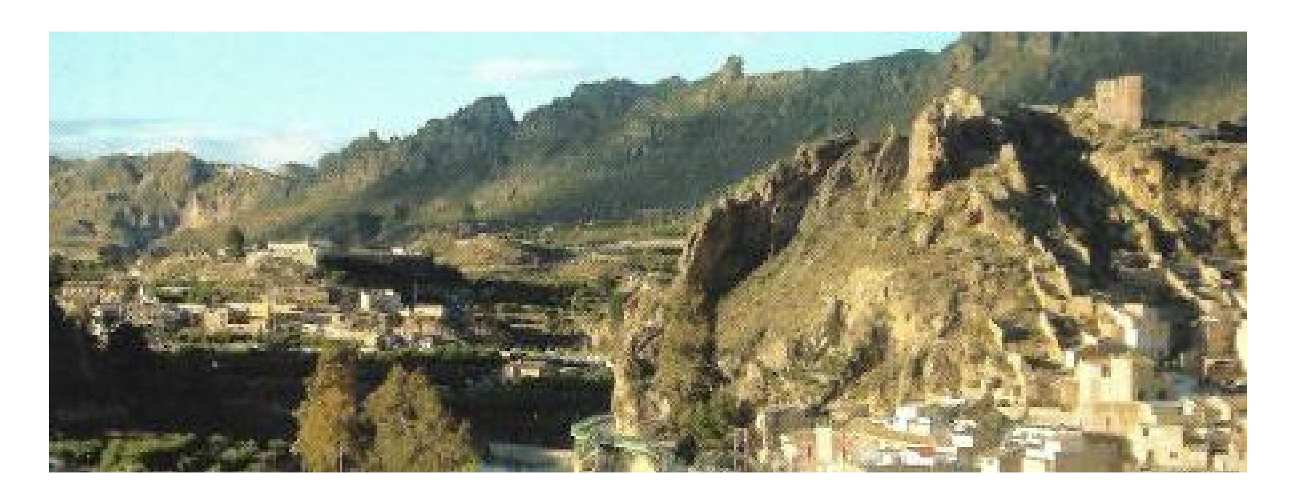
6. The River Segura (0.8km) At this point you have to turn left to visit the Light Factory. After this visit you retrace the steps to continue the route of the river Segura up to the cafe El Molino where there once was an old water flour mill. Through the Municipal Park you can access the Iron Bridge (E).

7. El Arenal (0.6km) Along this bridge you will cross the Segura which continues upstream. You will reach El Arenal, a natural river beach. Crossing the river again along one of the recently built footbridges installed in the area, you will reach the Las Canales laundry. Following the street Anguillara Sabazia you will come to the Plaza del Ayuntamiento and when you cross it, you will be in the Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo again.

6 Route 2 →

6.1 Cañada de Isidro - Blanca's Castle

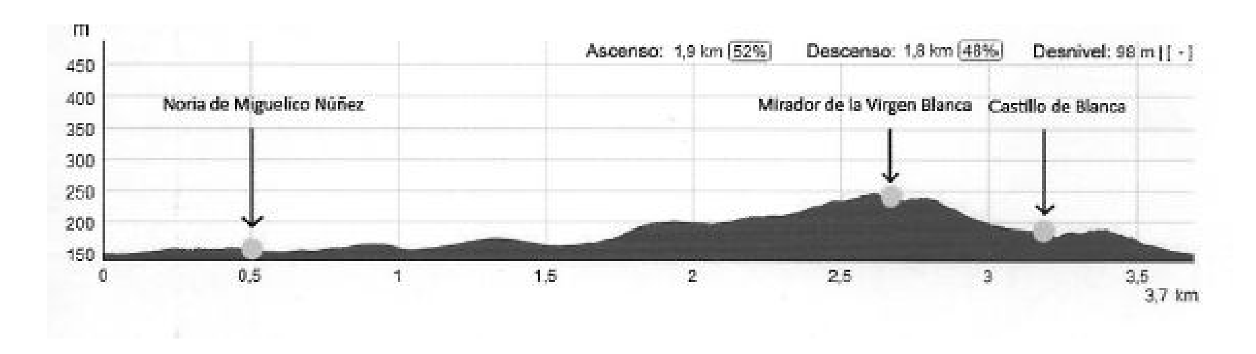
Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo ▸ *Cañada Isidro* ▸ *Subida a la Virgen Blanca* ▸ *Camino al Castillo* ▸ *Bajada por el Casco Antiguo*



This route runs through the surroundings of the urban center of Blanca and allows you to go back several centuries in history, visiting its castle (Ríos, 2003). In addition to the strong historical component of this route the high landscape value of the surroundings of the urban nucleus and the views that we can enjoy from any point of the route stand out. The itinerary has a very varied character, road and buildings, cultivated land, stony paths, and paths flanked by young pines (*Pinus halepensis*).

	Data sheet
	Distance: 3.7km
	Approximate duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
	Ascent slope: 173m
	Descent slope: 173m
	Cartography: Sheet 891-III of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year, although in the middle part of the summer days it is necessary to take protection against the sun and high temperatures.
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the MU553 road that starts from the N301 of the MU514 road Blanca-Abarán section, or through the MU520 Ojós-Blanca road.

Longitudinal profile





Huerta de Arriba
184
216
196
213
175
275
272
265
182
Villa Cruz
Noria de Miguelico Núñez
Castillo de Blanca
271
269
Blanca
26
249
Runes
Puente Nuevo
PR-MU 24
GR 127
Alto Palom
208
Blanca
176
Bco. del Zapato
Campillo
Medio
1
Itinerario
2
Desplazto.
2
Esfuerzo
2



Ruta 2 ➲ Cañada de Isidro - Castillo de Blanca

1 **Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo** (1,1 km). Desde esta plaza nos dirigimos hacia el puente para girar a mano derecha justo antes de llegar a él hasta la carretera MU-514 en dirección a Abarán. El primer punto de interés es el lavadero de las Canales **(A)**.

Se sigue por una pasarela sobre el Río Segura que permite rodear la Peña Negra y tras la que se encuentra una noria tradicional conocida como la "Noria de Miguelico Núñez" **(B)**. Tras un kilómetro se toma un desvío a la derecha para entrar en la Cañada de Isidro.

2 **Cañada Isidro** (1 km). En este tramo destaca el notable cambio de paisaje que se encuentra configurado por elevaciones de distinto tamaño conformando un pequeño valle interior. Llama especialmente la atención un cerro testigo donde se aprecia la sucesión de estratos. Al bordearlo se toma un camino a la derecha hasta un claro desde el que tomar un camino de tierra que asciende por la ladera norte de la Sierra del Solán.

3 **Subida a la Virgen Blanca** (0,7 km). Este es el tramo de mayor pendiente en menos recorrido. Se deja el camino asfaltado y los cultivos de frutales y comienza la subida por la cara norte de la Sierra del Solán, en cuya cima se encuentra el mirador de la Virgen Blanca.

Desde el mirador se obtienen las mejores vistas del municipio (C). Se observa como fondo escénico singular la Sierra de la Navela, el Azud de Ojós y la Sierra de Ricote; aún a la derecha se suceden las entidades urbanas de El Alto del Palomo, El Alto de Doña Isabel y El Runes; en primer término, destaca el Río Segura que vertebra el valle y al que se ajusta el núcleo urbano de Blanca descendiendo desde la Sierra del Solán. Destaca, sobre el estrecho de Las Canales, el Castillo de Blanca. Al NO la Sierra del Oro y parte del núcleo urbano de Abarán, así como las huertas y los cultivos aterrazados que se ajustan y encajan en la morfología del Valle del Segura.

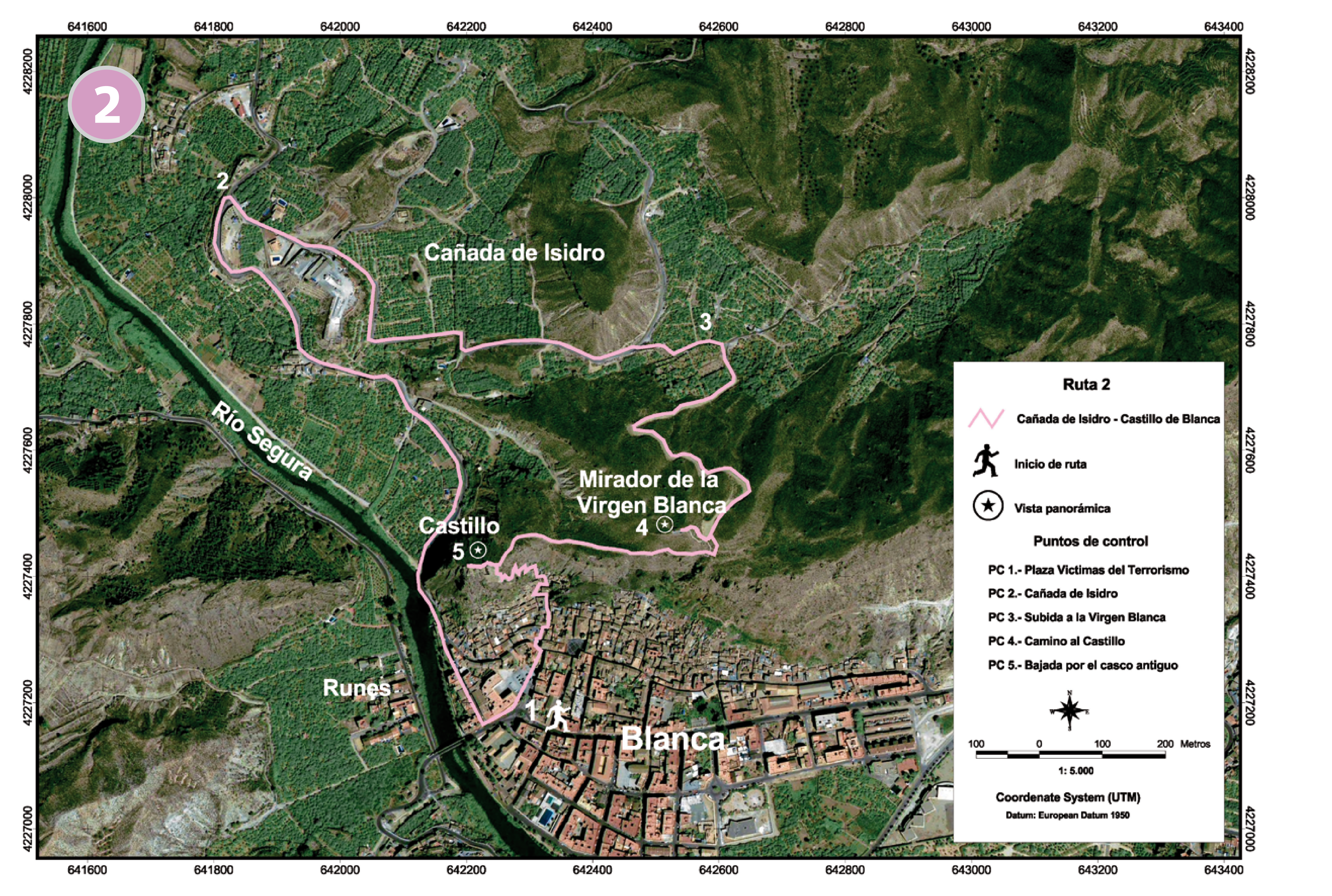
A partir de este punto se continúa el recorrido por una estrecha senda que nos lleva al Castillo **(D)**.

4 **Camino al Castillo** (0,5 km). Transcurre por una estrecha y pedregosa senda, a veces escalonada y rodeada de pinos por la que se desciende hasta alcanzar el castillo. Se accede por un lateral, contemplando los tres torreones que quedan en pie en su cara Este **(E)**.

Las obras de restauración ayudan a intuir el perímetro original de la construcción y se comprueba la situación estratégica de esta estructura defensiva.

5 **Bajada por el Casco Antiguo** (0,4 km). Se desciende por una pequeña senda escalonada hasta el casco antiguo de Blanca, en cuyas calles se intuye el paso de los años y el cambio de estilo arquitectónico a medida que avanza la expansión de la trama urbana **(F)**.

Es un laberinto de callejuelas que trazan un casco urbano morisco muy bien conservado. Recorriéndolas se desemboca en la Plaza del Ayuntamiento anexa a nuestro punto de partida y punto final de la ruta.



2
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4227600
4227400
4227200
4227000
Cañada de Isidro
Río Segura
Mirador de la Virgen Blanca
Castillo
Runes
Blanca
1
2
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5
Ruta 2
Cañada de Isidro - Castillo de Blanca
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Plaza Victimas del Terrorismo
PC 2.- Cañada de Isidro
PC 3.- Subida a la Virgen Blanca
PC 4.- Camino al Castillo
PC 5.- Bajada por el casco antiguo
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Metros
1: 5.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950

Route 2 → Cañada de Isidro - Castillo de Blanca

1. Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo (1.1km). From this square head towards the bridge to turn right just before reaching it until you come to the MU514 road in the direction of Abarán. The first point of interest is the Las Canales laundry (A).

It continues along a footbridge over the river Segura behind which there is a traditional waterwheel known as Noria de Miguelico Núñez (B). After a kilometer takes a detour to the right to enter Cañada de Isidro.

2. Cañada de Isidro (1km) In this section the remarkable change of landscape due to elevations of different sizes forming a small interior valley stands out. A witness hill where the succession of strata can be seen is especially striking. As you go around it, take a path to the right to a more open place from which a dirt road climbs up the northern slope of Sierra del Solán.

3. Ascent to the White Virgin (0.7km) This is the steepest stretch. Leave the asphalt road and the fruit crops and begin the climb up the northern face of Sierra del Solán at the top of which is the White Virgin's viewpoint.

The best views of the municipality are from the viewpoint (C). Sierra de la Navela, the Azud de Ojós, and Sierra de Ricote will be visible in a single view. On the right are the urban entities of El Alto del Palomo, El Alto de Doña Isabel, and El Runes. The

river Segura which forms the backbone of the valley and around which the urban center of Blanca molds descending from Sierra del Solán stands out in the foreground. Blanca's Castle towers over the Strait of Las Canales. The northwest of Sierra del Oro and part of the urban nucleus of Abarán as well as the orchards and terraced crops match and fit into the morphology of the Segura Valley.

From this point the route continues along a narrow path that takes you to the Castle (D).

4. The way to the Castle (0.5km) It runs along a narrow stony path, sometimes stepped and surrounded by pine trees, which leads down to the castle. It is accessed from one side, contemplating the three towers that remain standing on its eastern face (E).

The restoration works help to intuit the original perimeter of the construction and the strategic position of this defensive structure is verified.

5. Down through the Old Town (0.4km) Go down a short stepped path to the old town of Blanca in the streets of which you can sense the passing of the years and the change in architectural style as the expansion of the urban fabric progresses (F).

It is a labyrinth of alleys that trace a very well preserved Moorish town center. Going through them leads to the Plaza del Ayuntamiento attached to the starting and end point of the route.

7 Route 3 →

7.1 Bordering the Azud de Ojós

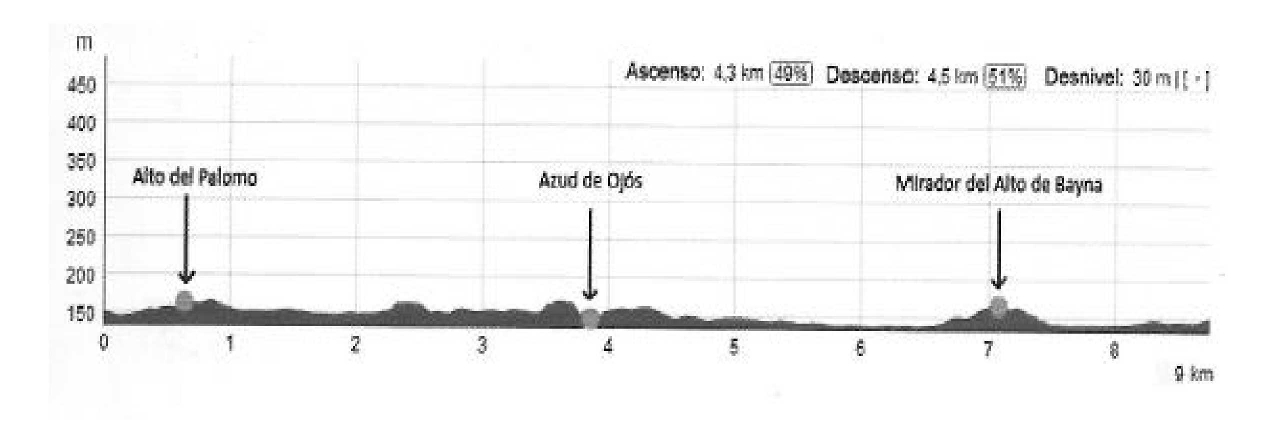
Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo ▸ Alto del Palomo ▸ Presa del Azud de Ojós ▸ Casa de la Favorita ▸ Azud de Ojós ▸ Alto de Bayna ▸ Parque botánico de Las Cuevas



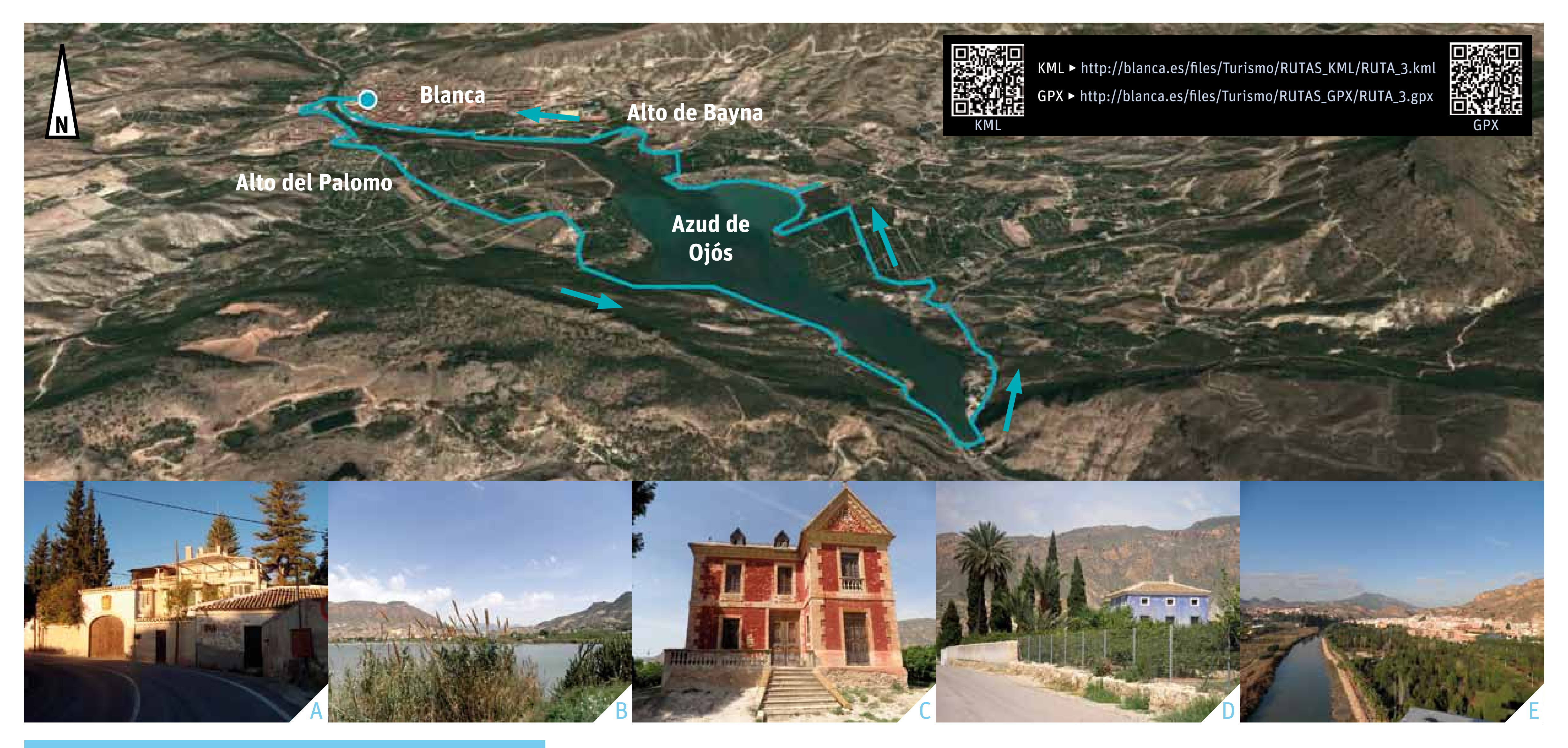
The Azud de Ojós reservoir was built in 1978 with the aim to increase the amount of water available for irrigation and diverting the waters from the Tajo-Segura transfer. It has caused a notable change in the landscape by introducing aquatic species of flora and fauna that intermingle with the landscape of crops and the mountain and is considered a wetland of importance for aquatic birds. This variety and diversity is one of the characteristics that makes Blanca a unique municipality.

	Data sheet
	Distance: 9km
	Ascent slope: 190m
	Descent slope: 190m
	Cartography: Sheets 891-III and IV, 912-I and II of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year, although in the middle part of the summer days it is necessary to take protection against the sun and high temperatures.
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the MU554 road that starts from the N301 of the MU514 road Blanca-Abarán section, or through the MU520 Ojós-Blanca road.

Longitudinal profile




Blanca
Bayna
Polideportivo
Alto de Bayna
Runes
Puente Nuevo
Cerro Runes
Palomo
Alto Palomo
Parque de las Cuevas
PR-MU 24
GR 127
Rambla
Barrio del Cofé
Ermita de Panales
Carretera
El Saque
Mirador de la Navela
Embalse de Ojós
Casa de la Molineta
Chalet La Favorita
RM-520
Campillo
Buyla
Bco. de Navela
Área recreativa de la Navela.
Barranco Navela
Mirador del Azud
Azud de Ojós
Central hidroeléctrica
Alto de Solvente
El Solvente
La Fuente
Alto de la Umbría
Casa del Hortelano
Casas de la Cañada
Alto de Doña Isabel
Medio
1
Itinerario
2
Desplazto.
1
Esfuerzo
2



Ruta 3 ➲ Bordeando el Azud de Ojós

1 **Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo** (0,1 km). Se comienza hacia el puente de hierro, en el que se establece un primer contacto con el Río Segura que acompañará durante todo el itinerario. Se cruza dicho puente para tomar la carretera MU-520 con dirección a Ojós.

2 **Alto del Palomo** (3,8 km). Se cruza un pequeño puente que salva la Rambla del Puente o de Ambrós y se asciende al Alto del Palomo, donde se encuentra la casa señorial de Don Carlos González Gieger **(A)**. Tras una curva a la derecha, llega al arco del que nace el camino para llegar al Campo de Ricote que se deja atrás tomando la dirección a la izquierda. Tras poco más de dos kilómetros y medio por el arcén de esta carretera que transcurre entre fincas de cultivos de frutales se llega, justo antes de cruzar el río, a un paseo de nueva construcción en el que se puede observar el embalse. Se reanuda la marcha hasta la presa del Azud de Ojós **(B)**.

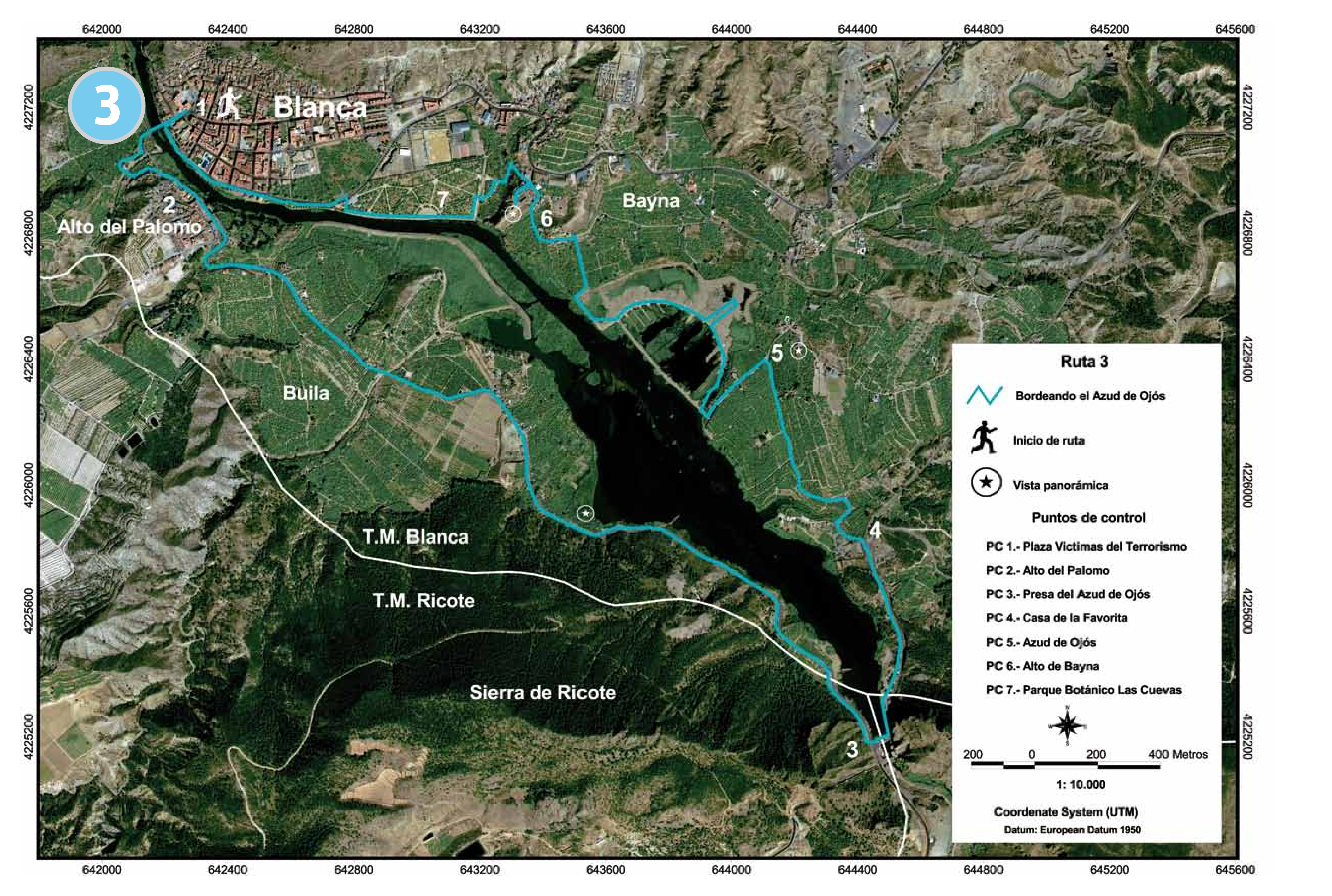
3 **Presa del Azud de Ojós** (0,7 km). La carretera se adentra en un túnel que atraviesa el paraje de El Solvente. Allí se encuentran las construcciones de las tomas de derivación del embalse y el inicio del Canal de la Margen Izquierda del Postrasvase Tajo-Segura. Se continúa por el camino asfaltado hasta llegar a un cruce en el que se toma a la izquierda para caminar por otra carretera rodeada de cultivos de cítricos y frutales que se dirige al Barrio del Café.

4 **Casa de la Favorita** (1,2 km). En este tramo se encuentra la Casa de La Favorita **(C)**. Un poco más adelante, a la derecha, la Casa de la Molineta **(D)**. Tras pasar la Ermita de Panales (antigua Ermita de San Roque) se gira por un camino a mano izquierda que lleva en dirección al embalse del Azud de Ojós.

5 **Azud de Ojós** (1,1 km). Cerca del río se abre un amplio espacio con zonas ajardinadas y varios puntos de observación donde se puede obtener una pequeña muestra de la gran riqueza faunística que puede dar cobijo un espacio de estas características, a la vez dotado de un equilibrio muy frágil que se debe preservar. A través de una pista de tierra que atraviesa las huertas tradicionales se alcanza el Alto de Bayna.

6 **Alto de Bayna** (0,8 km). Siguiendo los indicadores existentes se llega hasta el “Mirador del Alto de Bayna”, una pasarela metálica suspendida en altura desde la que se tienen unas vistas de 360º de los alrededores del núcleo urbano de Blanca y las huertas de Bayna y Buila. A la izquierda, el Barrio del Café con las viviendas típicas de huerta insertadas entre los cultivos de frutales, escasas primero y agregadas según se acercan a nuestra vista hasta unirse con El Alto de Bayna. Se puede observar el Río Segura y el paisaje entre cañas y vegetación de ribera en su camino hacia el Azud de Ojós. En el embalse se distinguen islotes de cañas y vegetación que sirven de refugio para numerosas especies de aves acuáticas. En este idílico paisaje se observa cómo se alzan, desde el mar de cultivos hacia el cielo, las palmeras datileras que dan personalidad e identidad al paisaje. Se vuelve por una calle en descendente a mano izquierda para llegar hasta el Parque de las Cuevas **(E)**.

7 **Parque Botánico de Las Cuevas** (1,3 km). Este parque se encuentra a la orilla del Río Segura y cuenta con más de 100 especies de vegetación de ribera. Se continúa por la Avenida del Río Segura, donde se encuentra el Club de Piragüismo y el Museo del Agua y de la Luz. Al final de la calle, atravesando el Parque Municipal se llega al punto de partida.


3
1
Blanca
2
Alto del Palomo
7
6
Bayna
5
4
3
Buila
T.M. Blanca
T.M. Ricote
Sierra de Ricote
Ruta 3
Bordeando el Azud de Ojós
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Plaza Victimas del Terrorismo
PC 2.- Alto del Palomo
PC 3.- Presa del Azud de Ojós
PC 4.- Casa de la Favorita
PC 5.- Azud de Ojós
PC 6.- Alto de Bayna
PC 7.- Parque Botánico Las Cuevas
200 0 200 400 Metros
1: 10.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950
642000 642400 642800 643200 643600 644000 644400 644800 645200 645600
4227200 4226800 4226400 4226000 4225600 4225200

Route 3 → Bordering the Azud de Ojós

1. Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo (0.1km) It begins towards the Iron Bridge which provides the first contact with the river Segura. This river will accompany you through the journey. Cross this bridge to take the MU520 road towards Ojós.

2. Alto del Palomo (3.8km) Cross a small bridge that crosses the Rambla del Puente or Ambrós and ascend to Alto del Palomo where the manor house of Don Carlos Gonzáles Gieger (A) is located. After a bend to the right you will come to the arch from which the path to Campo de Ricote starts. You'll leave it behind bearing left. After just over two and a half kilometers you will travel along the shoulder of this road that runs between the fruit orchards just before crossing the river as a newly built promenade where you can see the reservoir. The walk continues to the Azud de Ojós' dam (B).

3. **Azud de Ojós Dam** (0.7km) The road enters a tunnel that crosses the El Solvente area. There are the constructions of the diversion intakes of the reservoir and the beginning of the Channel of the Left Bank of the Post-transfer Tajo-Segura. Continue along the paved road until you reach a crossroads where you will turn left to walk along another road surrounded by citrus and fruit crops that leads to the Barrio del Café.

4. Casa de la Favorita (1.2km) In this section is the Casa de La Favorita (C). A little further to the right is the House of Molineta (D). After passing the Hermitage of Panales (former Hermitage of San Roque) turn onto a path on the left that leads towards the Azud de Ojós reservoir.

5. Azud de Ojós (1.1km) Near the river there is a wide space with orchards and several points for observation where you can get a sample of the great wealth of fauna that seeks shelter in this characteristic space, endowed with delicate balance that must be preserved. You will reach Alto de Bayna by a dirt track that crosses the traditional orchards.

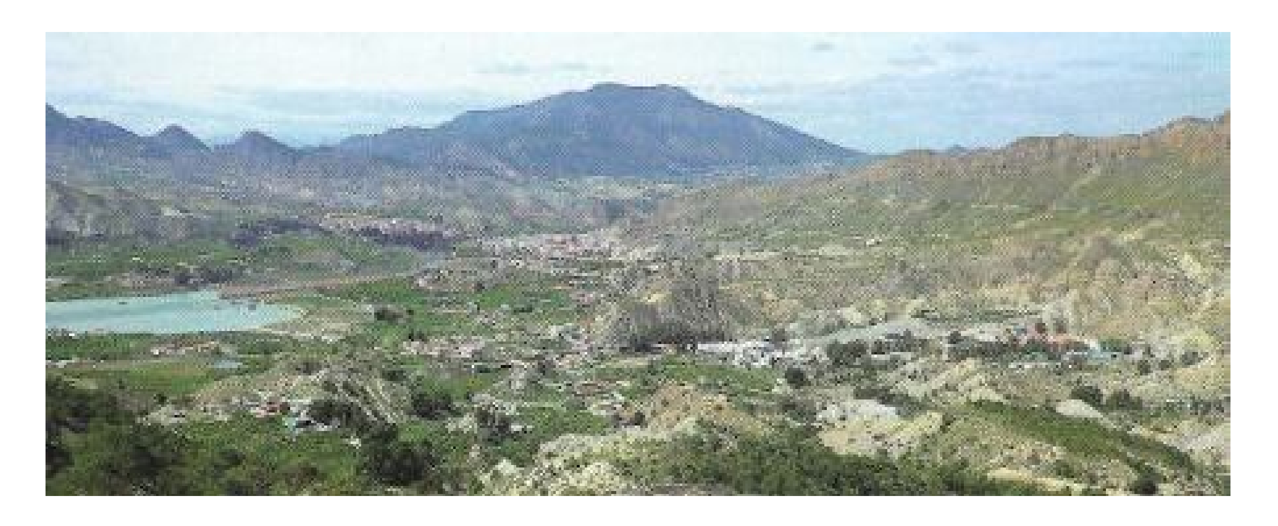
6. Alto de Bayna (0.8km) Follow the signs and you will reach the Alto de Bayna viewpoint, a metal walkway suspended at height from which you have 360° views of the surroundings of the urban center of Blanca and the Bayna and Buila's orchards. On the left is the Barrio del Café with the typical orchard dwellings nested among the fruit crops. They are at first scarce and get denser as they come into view until they join the Alto de Bayna. You can see the river Segura and the landscape through the reeds and riverside vegetation on its way to the Azud de Ojós. There are islets of reeds and vegetation in the reservoir that serve as a refuge for numerous species of aquatic birds. In this idyllic landscape you can see how the date palms that give character to the landscape rise from the sea of crops towards the sky. Turn left down a descending street toward Parque de las Cuevas (E).

7. Parque Botánico de Las Cuevas (1.3km) This botanical park, named after the caves that were once there, is located on the banks of the river Segura and hosts more than 100 species of riverside vegetation. Continue along Avenida del Río Segura where you will find the Canoeing Club and the Museum of Water and Light. At the end of the street, crossing the Municipal Park, you'll reach the starting point.

8 Route 4 →

8.1 Hermitage of San Roque – Sierra de la Navela

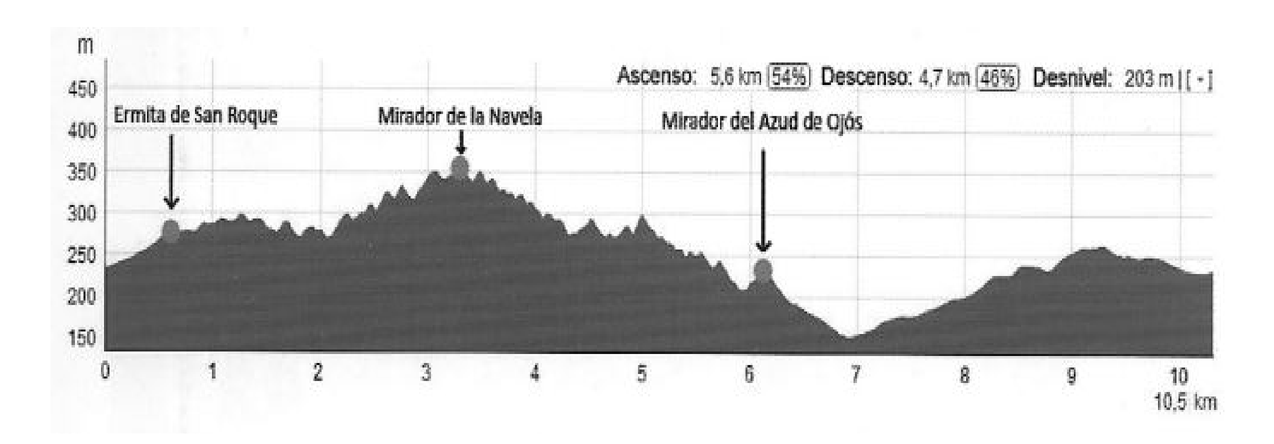
Hermitage of San Roque ▸ *Path PR MU-24* ▸ *Navela's Recreational Area* ▸ *Road of the water reservoir*

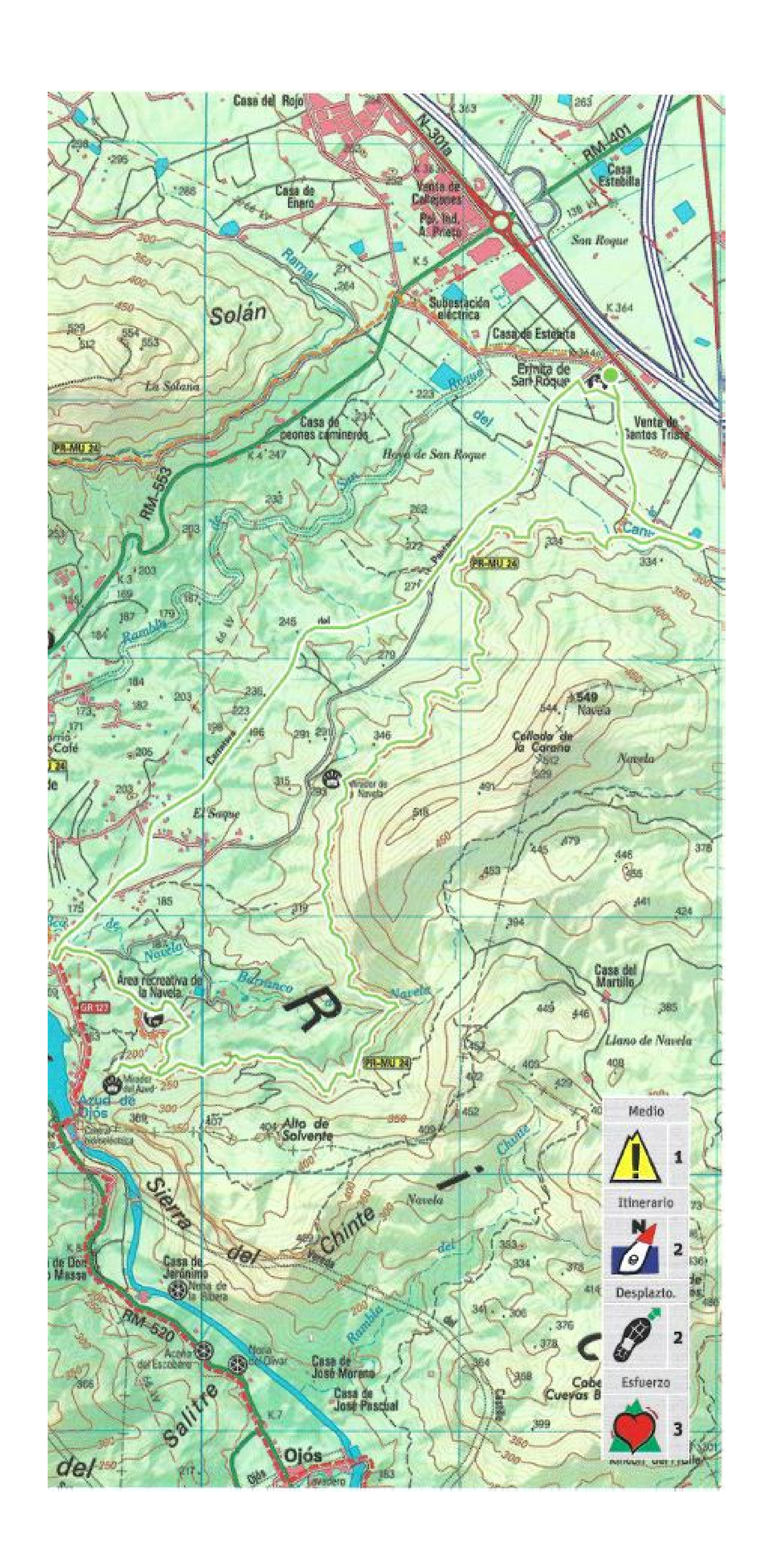


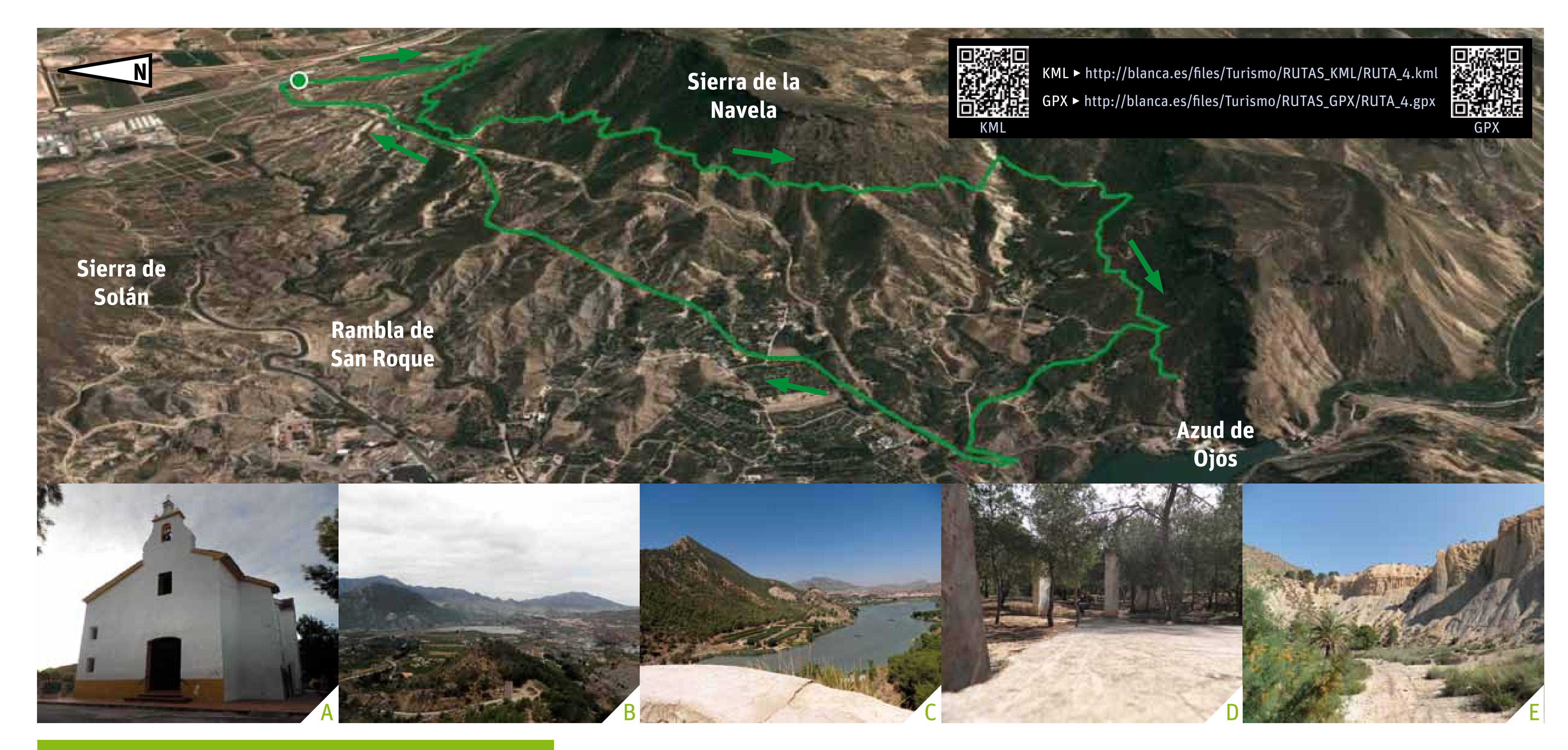
This route arises from the need to divide one of the approved trails in the area to make the visit to this important natural space easier. The path that runs through Sierra de la Navela has been selected and returns along the road parallel to the Barranco de San Roque to the Hermitage with the same name. Throughout the tour you can enjoy an impressive panoramic view of the Blanca orchard, the Azud de Ojós reservoir, and San Roque's Ravine, passing viewpoints where you can stop and enjoy the beautiful landscapes.

	Data sheet
	Distance: 10.5km
	Approximate duration: 4 hours
	Ascent slope: 560m
	Descent slope: 560m
	Cartography: Sheets 891-III and IV, 912-I and II of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year
	Access: through the signs at the access roundabout to Blanca by the Murcia A30 motorway or from Blanca by the MU553

Longitudinal profile




Casa del Rojo
Casa de Enero
Venta de Callejones
Pol. Ind. A. Prieto
Casa Estebilla
San Roque
RM-401
Ramal
Solán
La Solana
Subestación eléctrica
Casa de Estebita
Ermita de San Roque
Casa de peones camineros
Hoya de San Roque
Venta de Tentos Triste
PR-MU 24
RM-553
Rambla
549
Navela
Collado de la Corona
Navela
El Saque
Mirador de Navela
Área recreativa de la Navela
Barranco
Navela
GR 127
Casa del Martillo
Llano de Navela
Mirador del Azud
Azud de Ojós
Alto de Solvente
Sierra del Chinte
RM-520
Casa de Jerónimo
Casa de José Moreno
Casa de José Pascual
Ojós
Salitre
del
Medio
1
Itinerario
2
Desplazto.
2
Esfuerzo
3



Ruta 4 ➲ Ermita de S. Roque - Sierra de la Navela

1 Ermita de San Roque (0,9 km). Cuentan que San Roque escuchó las oraciones de los blanqueños y por ello se salvaron de la epidemia de peste que asoló España en 1828, mereciendo así la categoría de patrón e incluso doble celebración al año, en abril con romería desde Blanca hasta este lugar **(A)**.

Dejando la ermita a mano derecha aparece un camino que se dirige a la Sierra de la Navela a través de cultivos. Se llega a una carretera por la que girar a la izquierda para alcanzar un camino forestal por el que transcurre el sendero de pequeño recorrido PR MU-24 y que bordea la ladera de la Sierra de la Navela.

2 Sendero PR MU-24 (2,6 km). Discurre por una pista forestal que se asienta en la umbría de la Sierra de la Navela. La cara norte se encuentra tapizada con pinares de pino carrasco (*Pinus halepensis*) y manchas de carrascal (*Quercus ilex*). Se disfruta de las espectaculares vistas de la Rambla de San Roque a los pies de la Sierra del Solán.

En el recorrido se pueden observar algunas de las numerosas especies que pueblan la zona, como aves rapaces o jabalíes. Entre las rapaces presentes en la zona tenemos el águila real (*Aquila chrysaetos*), el halcón peregrino (*Falco peregrinus*), el búho real (*Bubo bubo*), el águila perdicera (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*), el águila calzada (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) o el águila culebrera (*Circaetus gallicus*), todas ellas bajo diversas figuras de protección.

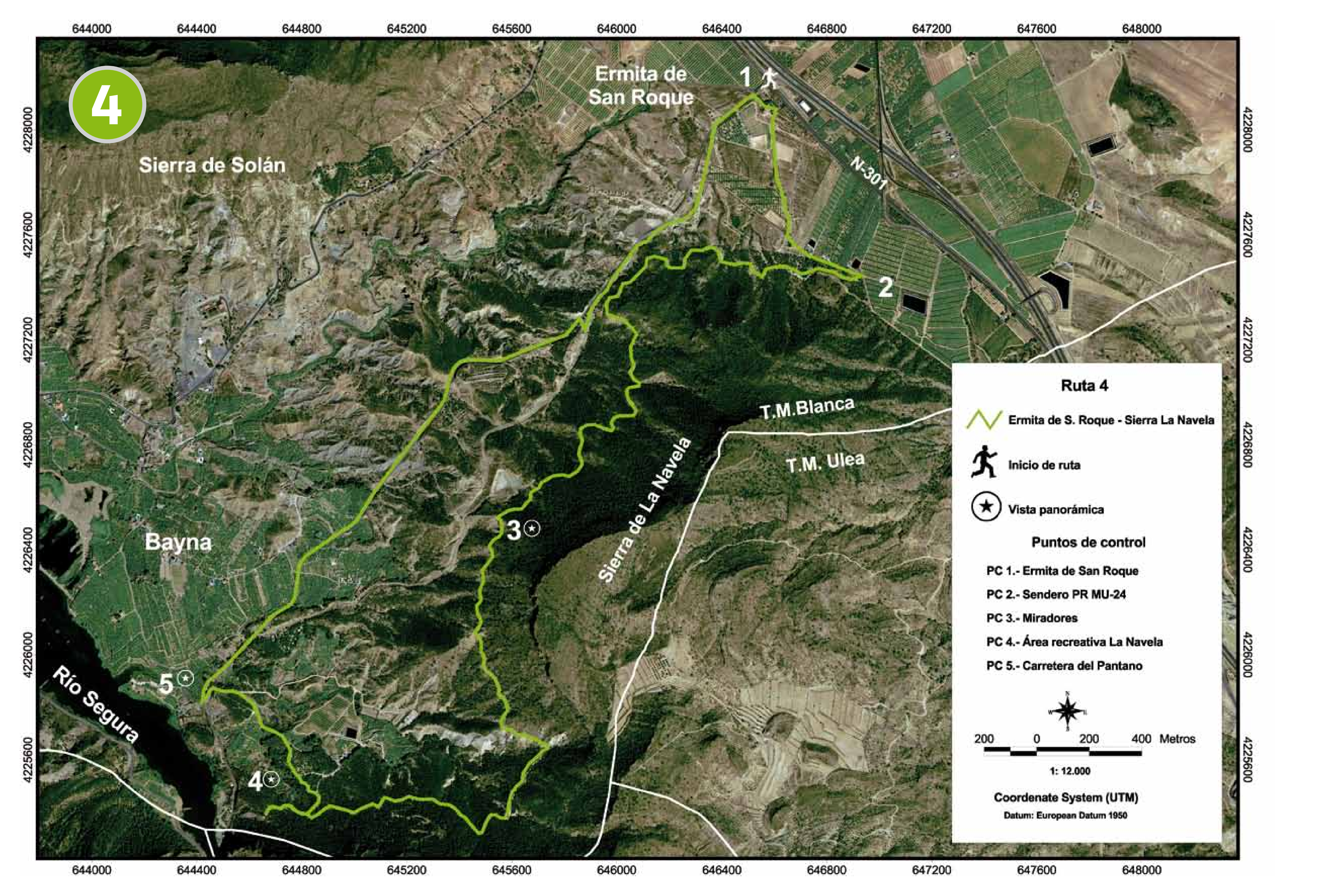
3 Miradores (2,8 km). A medio camino entre la Ermita, desde la que parte este itinerario y el Área Recreativa de la Navela hay, en una de las curvas del camino, un mirador con un panel informativo.

Desde él se observa cómo las sierras circundantes parecen abrazar el Azud de Ojós y dejan la población de Blanca al refugio de la Peña Negra y a los pies de su castillo. Desde este enclave excepcional vemos la Sierra de Ricote, la Sierra de la Umbría, el Embalse del Azud, la Sierra del Oro al fondo, el Barranco de San Roque y la Sierra del Solán **(B)**.

El camino sigue por la misma pista forestal hasta llegar a una estrecha senda que acaba en el Mirador del Azud de Ojós, desde el que se obtiene una inigualable vista de este importante humedal **(C)**. Desde esta posición se pueden avistar distintos grupos de aves acuáticas como garcetas comunes (*Egretta garzetta*) o cormoranes grandes (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) en su característica postura tomando el sol con las alas desplegadas. Se regresa al camino para seguir la marcha hacia el Área Recreativa de la Navela **(D)**.

4 Área recreativa de la Navela (0,7 km). Este agradable lugar, acondicionado con mesas y mobiliario de merendero, es un buen emplazamiento para descansar después de los 7 km recorridos hasta el momento. Se reanuda la marcha bajando por el camino asfaltado hasta llegar a un cruce cercano al embalse por el que tomar la carretera del Pantano, a la derecha.

5 Carretera del Pantano (3,5 km). Se recorren casi tres kilómetros y medio de vuelta por este camino hasta el punto de partida durante el que se observan las fascinantes cárcavas de la Rambla de San Roque **(E)**. Al final de la carretera, a la derecha, se encuentra la Ermita de San Roque.



4
Ermita de San Roque
Sierra de Solán
N-301
Bayna
T.M.Blanca
T.M. Ulea
Sierra de La Navela
Río Segura
Ruta 4
Ermita de S. Roque - Sierra La Navela
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Ermita de San Roque
PC 2.- Sendero PR MU-24
PC 3.- Miradores
PC 4.- Área recreativa La Navela
PC 5.- Carretera del Pantano
200 0 200 400 Metros
1: 12.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950
644000 644400 644800 645200 645600 646000 646400 646800 647200 647600 648000
4228000 4227600 4227200 4226800 4226400 4226000 4225600

Route 4 → Hermitage of San Roque – Sierra de la Navela

1.- Hermitage of San Roque (0.9km) They say that San Roque heard the prayers of the Blanqueños and for that reason they were saved from the epidemic plague that devastated Spain in 1828. San Roque thus deserved the status of patron and even two celebrations a year - a pilgrimage from Blanca to this place in April (A) and the Patronal Festival in August. Leaving the hermitage on the right, a path appears that leads to Sierra de la Navela through the crops. You will come to a road where you can turn left to reach a forest path along which the short path PR MU24 runs along the side of Sierra de la Navela.

2.- The PR MU24 trail (2.6km) runs along a forest track that lies in the shadow of Sierra de la Navela. The northern face is covered with forests of the Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and patches of holm oak (*Quercus ilex*). You can enjoy spectacular views of the dry riverbed of San Roque at the foot of Sierra del Solán. On the way you can see some of the many species that populate the area, such as raptors or wild boars. Among the raptors are the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), the eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*), the Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*), the booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*), or the short-toed eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), all of them under various forms of protection.

3. Viewpoints (2.8km) Halfway between the Hermitage from which this itinerary starts and the Recreational Area of La Navela there is a viewpoint with an information panel in one of the bends of the road. From there you can see how the surrounding mountains seem to embrace the Azud de Ojós and leave the town of Blanca at the refuge of the Peña Negra and at the foot of its castle. From this exceptional enclave you'll see Sierra de Ricote, Sierra de la Umbría, the Reservoir of Azud de Ojós, Sierra del Oro in the background, the Ravine of San Roque, and Sierra del Solán (B).

The Camino continues along the same forest track until it reaches a narrow path that ends at the Mirador del Azud de Ojós, from which an unbeatable view of this important wetland can be enjoyed (C). From this point you can see different groups of aquatic birds such as egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) or the great cormorants (*Phalacrocoraz carba*) soaking up the sun in their characteristic postures with the wings spread. Return to the road to continue the discovery towards the Recreational Area of La Navela (D).

4. The Recreational Area of **La Navela** (0.7km) This pleasant place equipped with tables and picnic furniture is a good place to rest after the 7km traveled so far. The trek resumes by going down the asphalt road until you reach a crossroads near the reservoir through which to take the Reservoir road on the right.

5. Reservoir Road (3.5km) You will walk almost three and a half kilometers back along this path to the starting point where you can see the fascinating gullies of the dry riverbed of San Roque (E). At the end of the road on the right there is the Hermitage of San Roque.

9 Route 5 →

9.1 Sierra del Solán

Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo ▸ *Mirador Urbano* ▸ *Cementerio de Blanca* ▸ *Gran Vía de Blanca*



This route goes from the historic center of Blanca to Sierra del Solán and back through one of its most important streets. Sierra del Solán is one of the mountainous formations that surround Blanca and befit the passage of the river Segura towards the sea. It is a landscape of mountains, ravines, and gullies gradually dotted with orange, lemon, and fruit trees towards the reservoir. It passes through a place where you can find marine fossils that testify to the fact that the Region of Murcia was submerged until about 5 million years ago.

	Data sheet
	Distance: 4km
	Approximate duration: 1 hour 30 minutes
	Ascent slope: 180m
	Descent slope: 180m
	Cartography: Sheets 891-III of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the MU553 road that starts from the N301 of the MU514 road Blanca-Abarán section, or through the MU520 Ojós-Blanca road.

Longitudinal profile





Noria de Miguelico Núñez
Isidro
Castillo de Blanca
222
271
269
Blanca
Bayna
Alto d. Bayna
195
218
267
257
K 2
Polideportivo
PR-MU 24
GR 127
Parque de las Cuevas
Mirador del Alto de Bayna
Alto Pélomo
Los Toledos
208
176
Medio
1
Itinerario
2
Desplazto.
2
Esfuerzo
2



Ruta 5 ➲ Sierra de Solán

1 **Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo** (0,3 km). Nos dirigimos hacia la Plaza del 18 de Julio, donde se encuentra la Iglesia de San Juan Evangelista.

A la derecha de la fachada de la iglesia están las señalizaciones del sendero PR MU-24 que se seguirán a través de las callejuelas estrechas que dan paso a las viviendas más antiguas de Blanca hasta la calle Pinar, desde donde se desciende a la pista que recorre la ladera de la Sierra de Solán.

2 **Sendero PR MU-24** (1,5 km). Al comienzo de este tramo está el conocido como “Mirador Urbano”, desde donde se tiene una magnífica panorámica del núcleo urbano de Blanca y su entorno cercano **(A)**.

Se ve la evolución del crecimiento de la trama urbana de la ciudad a lo largo de su historia: en la zona más cercana al castillo y en la falda de la Peña Negra, el núcleo de viviendas más antiguo, de época islámica, casas construidas con adobe y piedras. Tras el mirador urbano aparecen restos fósiles marinos incrustados en las rocas. Su presencia indica que grandes áreas del territorio regional, que hoy aparecen emergidas y muy alejadas del mar, en épocas geológicas anteriores se encontraban sumergidas. En estas piedras hay fósiles de bivalvos pectínidos y ostreidos del Mioceno Superior, radiolites (lamelibranquios) y nerineas (gasterópodos) e incluso icnofósiles **(B y C)**.

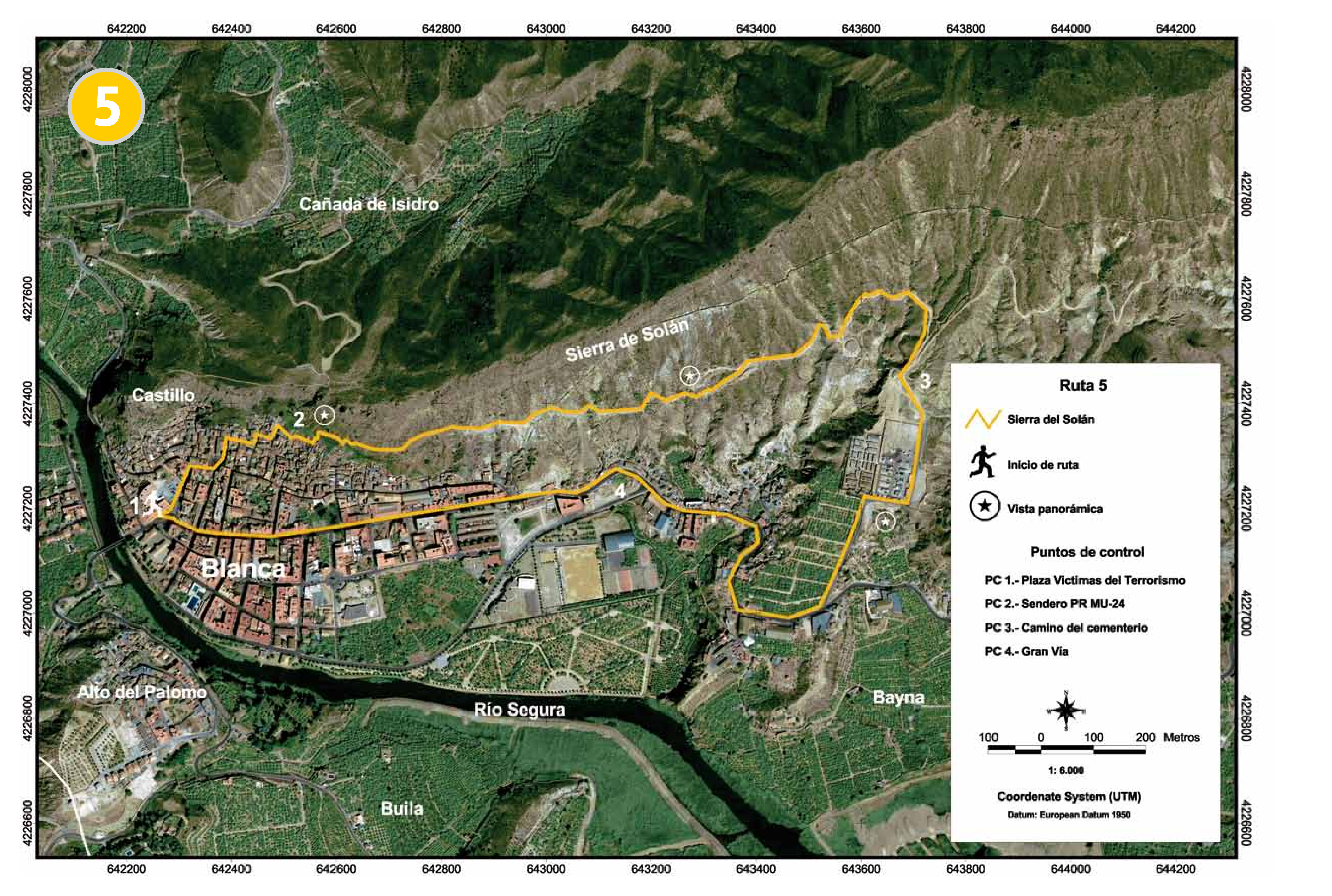
Durante casi kilómetro y medio se camina por parte del sendero de pequeño recorrido MU-24 de la Hoya de San Roque para llegar al cementerio de Blanca. La ruta transcurre por parte de la solana de esta formación montañosa, con vegetación típica de espartales (*Stipa tenacissima*), matorrales de adelfa (*Nerium oleander*) y pinares (*Pinus halepensis*) que protegen el suelo y ayudan a frenar los procesos erosivos. Apoyando a tal fin hay instalados unos diques de corrección hidrológico-forestal que retienen la escorrentía para que su efecto no sea tan grave y tenga menor capacidad erosiva de arrastre de sedimentos. En el camino al cementerio se encuentra algún pino que hace sombra al camino, donde parar y avistar aves que anidan en las rocas calizas y que, revolotean sin parar hasta que cae la noche, y son sustituidas por quirópteros. Algunas de estas especies son el avión roquero (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*), el halcón peregrino (*Falco peregrinus*) o el cernícalo (*Falco tinnunculus*).

Con suerte y paciencia se verá el elegante vuelo de rapaces como el águila perdicera (*Hieraaetus fasciatus*), el águila culebrera (*Circaetus gallicus*) o el ratonero común (*Buteo buteo*).

3 **Camino del Cementerio** (1,2 km). Pasa por la carretera que rodea el cementerio y desciende a la carretera comarcal MU-553, girando a la derecha en dirección a Blanca.

En toda esta zona, del Alto de Bayna, hay casas excavadas en las laderas de la Sierra de Solán. Se trata de casas cueva, la mayor parte de ellas deshabitadas en la actualidad, que necesitan un proyecto global de recuperación con fondos públicos que permita su rehabilitación **(D y E)**.

4 **Calle Gran Vía de Blanca** (1 km). Esta arteria principal de Blanca transcurre hasta la Plaza de Las Víctimas del Terrorismo. En ella se localiza la Casa del Conde de la Vallesa[8].


5
Cañada de Isidro
Sierra de Solán
Castillo
Blanca
Alto del Palomo
Río Segura
Buila
Bayna
1
2
3
4
Ruta 5
Sierra del Solán
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Plaza Victimas del Terrorismo
PC 2.- Sendero PR MU-24
PC 3.- Camino del cementerio
PC 4.- Gran Via
100 0 100 200 Metros
1: 6.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950
642200 642400 642600 642800 643000 643200 643400 643600 643800 644000 644200
4228000 4227800 4227600 4227400 4227200 4227000 4226800 4226600

Route 5 → Sierra del Solán

1.- Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo (0.3km) Head towards the Plaza de la Iglesia where the Church of San Juan Evangelista is located.

The signs for the PR MU24 road are to the right of the facade of the church. Follow the signs through the narrow streets that give way to the oldest houses in Blanca to Pinar street from where you'll go up to the track that scours the slope of Sierra del Solán.

2. Trail PR MU24 (1.5km) At the beginning of this section is the Mirador Urbano from where you will have a magnificent panoramic view of the urban center of Blanca and its surroundings (A). One can see the evolution of the growth of the urban area of the city throughout its history: in the area closest to the castle and at the foot of the Peña Negra, the oldest housing nucleus from the Islamic period, there are houses built with adobe and stones.

Behind the urban viewpoint there are marine fossil remains embedded in the rocks. Their presence indicates that large areas of the regional territory, which today appear emerged and very far from the sea, were submerged in previous geological times. In these stones there are fossils of pectinid and ostreid bivalves from the Upper Miocene, radiolites (lamellibranchs), nerineas (gastropods), and even ichnofossils (B and C).

For almost a kilometer and a half you will walk along part of the short trail MU24 of Hoya de San Roque to reach the Blanca cemetery. The route runs through part of the sunny side of this mountainous formation with the typical vegetation of esparto grass (*Stipa tenecissima*), Nerium oleander shrubs, and pine forests (*Pinus halepensis*) that protect the soil and help to stop erosion. Some hydrological forestry correction dams are installed for supporting this end that retain runoff so that its effect is not so severe and has less erosive capacity to carry sediments. There is a pine tree that overshadows the path on the way to the cemetery, where you can stop and see birds that nest in the limestone rocks and flutter their wings nonstop until bats replace them at nightfall. Some of these species are the crag martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), or the common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus)*.

With luck and patience you will see the elegant flight of birds of prey such as Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraaetus fasciotus*), the short-toed snake eagle (*Circoetus gallicus*), or the common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

3. Cemetery Road (1.2km) Go through the road that surrounds the cemetery and descends to the MU553 regional road, turning right towards Blanca.

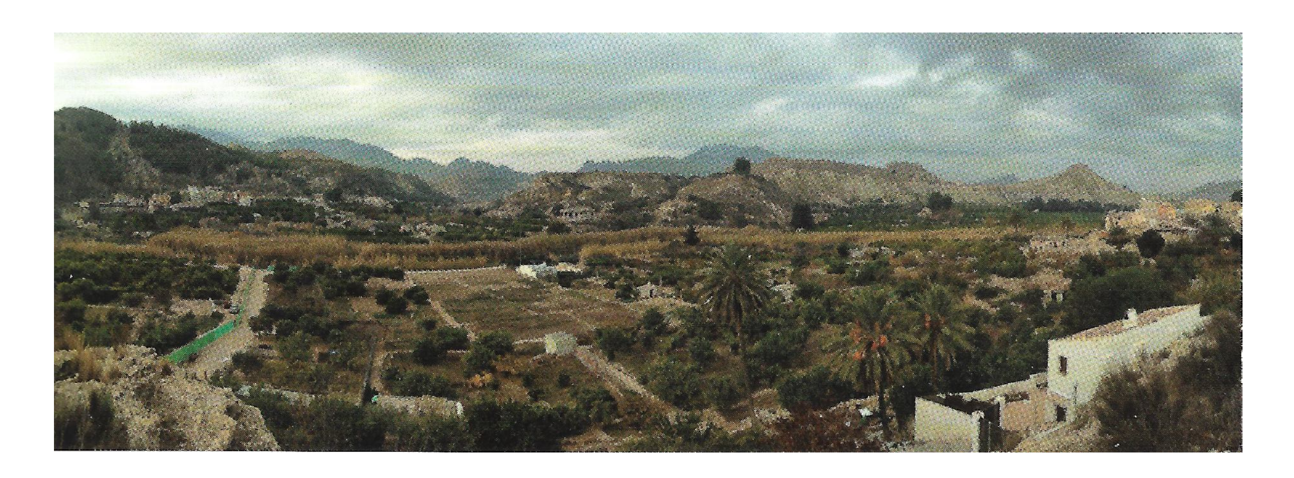
Throughout this area of Alto de Bayna there are houses dug into the slopes of Sierra del Solán. They are cave houses, most of them currently uninhabited and needing a global recovery project with public funding to enable their rehabilitation (D and E).

4. Gran Vía de Blanca street (1km) This is Blanca’s main road that runs to the Plaza de Las Víctimas del Terrorismo. The House of the Count of La Vallesa is located there.

10 Route 6 →

10.1 Blanca and its orchards

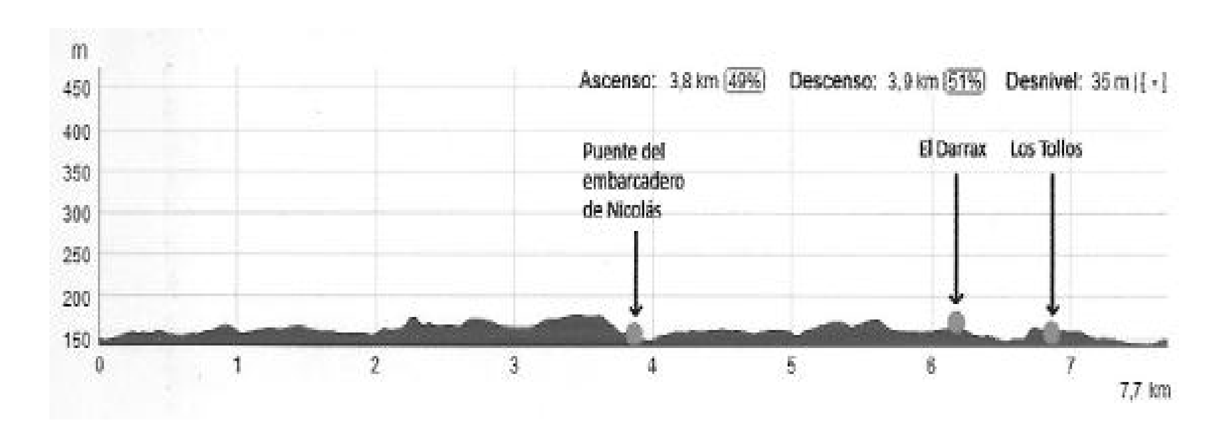
Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo ▸ *Nicolás' Bridge Pier* ▸ *Cabezo de Corona* ▸ *El Darrax* ▸ *Los Tollos*

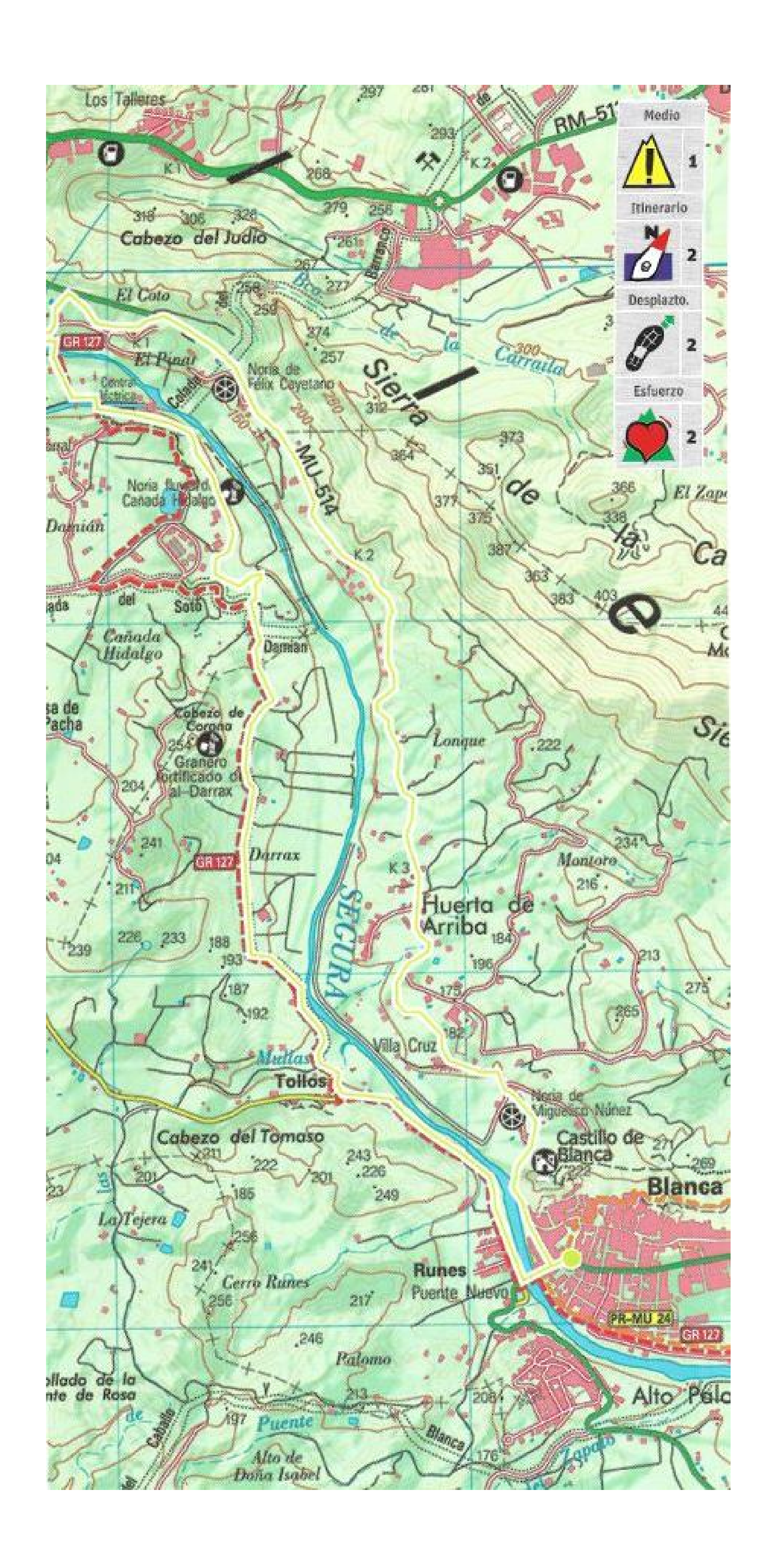


This route reveals the distinctive elements of Blanca's landscape that are a resource for the local population: its traditional fruit and vegetable orchards, the riverside vegetation along the Segura riverbed, the palm groves, the waterwheels, irrigation ditches, traditional dwellings (Molina and Tudela, 2010), etc. Visit the Don Nicolás Gómez Tornero Hydroelectric Plant, inaugurated in 1925 and very important for the industrial development of Abarán, and the Andarraix granary built in the Almohad period (around the 13th century) on an Iberian settlement to serve as a warehouse and refuge for the inhabitants of the area.

	Data sheet
	Distance: 9km
	Approximate duration: 2 hours 30 minutes
	Ascent slope: 180m
	Descent slope: 180m
	Cartography: Sheets 891-III of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year, although in the middle part of the summer days it is necessary to take protection against the sun and high temperatures.
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the MU553 road that starts from the N301, the MU514 road Blanca-Abarán section, or through the MU520 Ojós-Blanca road.

Longitudinal profile




Medio
1
Itinerario
2
Desplazto.
2
Esfuerzo
2
Los Talleres
RM-511
Cabezo del Judío
El Coto
GR 127
El Pinar
Noria de Félix Cayetano
Sierra de la Ca
MU-514
Noria Rueda Cañada Hidalgo
Cañada Hidalgo
Damián
del Soto
Cabezo de Corona
Granero fortificado de al-Darrax
Darrax
Lonque
Montoro
SEGURA
Huerta de Arriba
Villa Cruz
Tollos
Noria de Miguelico Núñez
Castillo de Blanca
Blanca
Cabezo del Tomaso
La Tejera
Cerro Runes
Runes
Puente Nuevo
PR-MU 24
Palomo
Alto Palo
Puente
Alto de Doña Isabel



Ruta 6 ➲ Blanca y su Huerta

1 Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo (3,7 km). Hay que dirigirse hacia el Puente de Hierro para girar a mano derecha justo antes de llegar a él hasta la carretera MU-514 en dirección a Abarán. Nada más dejar Blanca se encuentra el Lavadero de las Canales y, poco después, la “Noria de Miguelico Núñez”.

Durante todo este tramo se camina por la margen izquierda del Río Segura viendo cómo se entremezclan la vegetación de ribera, los árboles frutales, las palmeras datileras y los pinares de las laderas cercanas, creando el paisaje característico que tanto llama la atención de Blanca y sus alrededores. Se pasa a las puertas de Villa Cruz, es conocida por el gato de cerámica que hay en su tejado y del cual nace la expresión popular de Blanca “*Estar más ciego que el gato de Villa Cruz*”. A la derecha queda la Sierra del Solán y la Sierra de la Carraíla. Se continúa el trayecto hasta la Noria de Félix Cayetano. Justo antes de entrar en Abarán, una carretera que se desvía a la izquierda nos conduce hasta el Puente del Embarcadero de Nicolás, punto desde el cual seguir el camino hacia la derecha en dirección a la presa y El Jarrax, donde disfrutar de un merecido descanso y una muy bien conservada vegetación de ribera que constituye un paraje singular de gran belleza **(A y B)**.

2 Puente del Embarcadero de Nicolás (1,4 km). El itinerario sigue por el camino “Soto Damián – Cañada Hidalgo” señalizado a partir del puente. Se continúa en paralelo a un canal de derivación del Segura que lleva el agua del río a la antigua Central Hidroeléctrica de Nicolás Gómez Tornero, inaugurada a principios del siglo pasado para dotar de energía eléctrica a Abarán **(C)**.

La ruta continúa siguiendo las indicaciones del itinerario ecoturístico en dirección a Blanca. Se puede disfrutar del paisaje de la huerta tradicional que aprovecha y regula el agua del río mediante el uso de norias y acequias. Hay viviendas de más de dos siglos de antigüedad diseminadas por toda la huerta así como los restos de la noria fluvial de Cañada de Hidalgo.

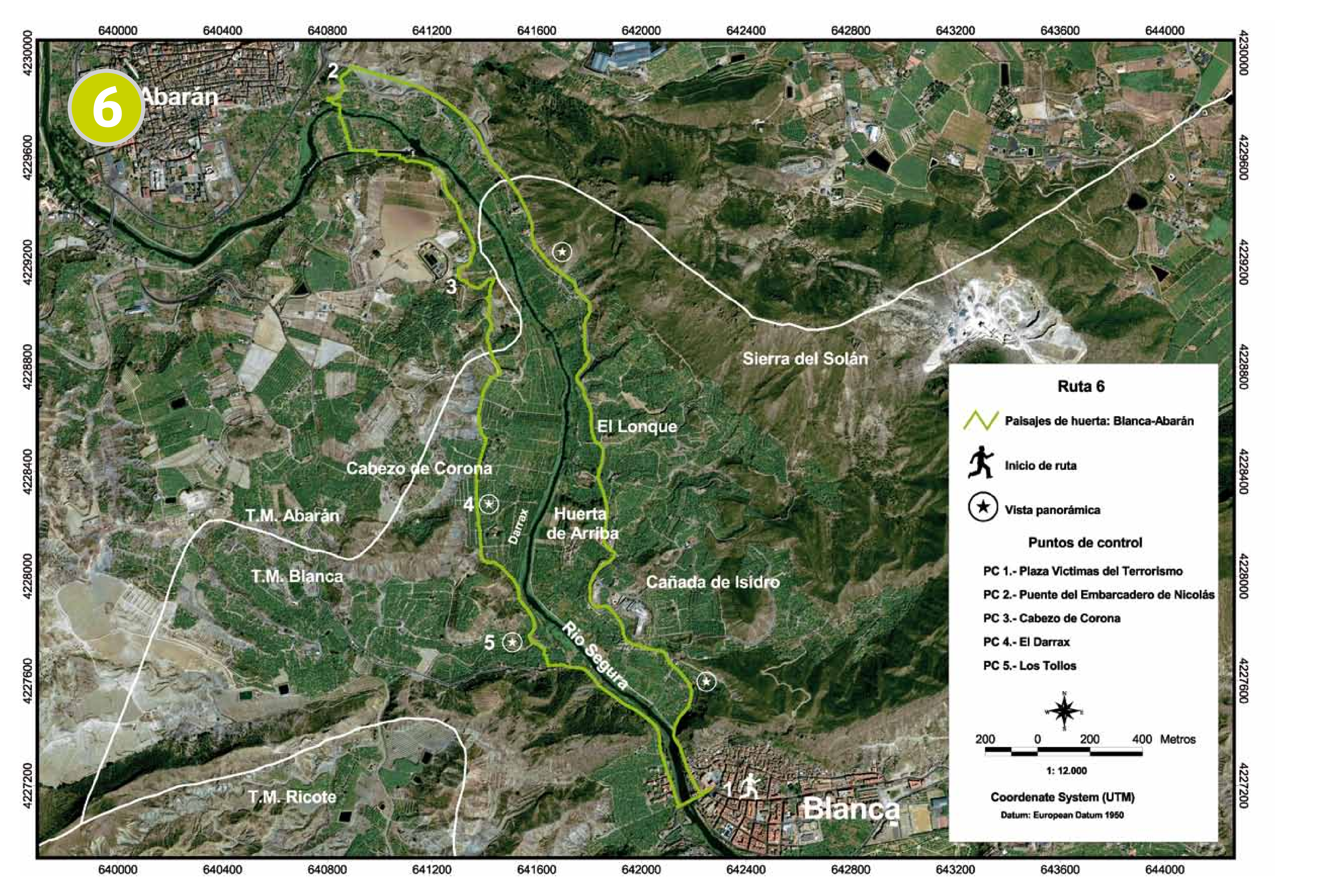
3 Cabezo de Corona (0,7 km). En este lugar está emplazado el granero fortificado de Andarraix **(D)**. Se continúa por una pista de tierra que transcurre a través de frutales y olivos hasta llegar al paraje del Darrax. Este paraje constituyó una de las alquerías o pequeño núcleo en época islámica al que perteneció el granero comunal citado más arriba, tal y como indica la toponimia “Darrax – Al-Darrax – Andarraix”.

4 El Darrax (1 km). Este tramo transcurre por un camino bordeado por cipreses y huertas tradicionales que se transforma en una suerte de paseo con álamos y setos, hasta que se estrecha y se convierte en una senda pedregosa resultado de los desprendimientos y corrimientos de tierra.

Más allá del río, en la lejanía, se divisa la Peña Negra y su Castillo, a cuyos pies se extiende el núcleo urbano de Blanca.

Tras cruzar la Rambla de las Multas o de la Tejera, como se conoce en Blanca, el camino se encuentra cementado atravesando fincas valladas. En este punto se siguen las indicaciones del PR MU-8 de la Senda de los Moriscos hasta llegar a la carretera a su paso por los Tollos.

5 Los Tollos (1 km). Se sigue la carretera hacia la izquierda hasta llegar al Arenal, donde se disfruta de un buen baño en verano **(E)**. Tras pasar el Runes y cruzar el Puente Nuevo se alcanza el punto de partida.



6
Abarán
Blanca
Sierra del Solán
El Lonque
Cabezo de Corona
Huerta de Arriba
Darrax
Cañada de Isidro
Río Segura
T.M. Abarán
T.M. Blanca
T.M. Ricote
1
2
3
4
5
Ruta 6
Paisajes de huerta: Blanca-Abarán
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Plaza Víctimas del Terrorismo
PC 2.- Puente del Embarcadero de Nicolás
PC 3.- Cabezo de Corona
PC 4.- El Darrax
PC 5.- Los Tollos
200 0 200 400 Metros
1: 12.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950
640000
640400
640800
641200
641600
642000
642400
642800
643200
643600
644000
4230000
4229600
4229200
4228800
4228400
4228000
4227600
4227200

Route 6 → Blanca and its Orchards

1. Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo (3.7km) Go towards the Iron Bridge and turn right just before reaching it until the MU514 road in the direction of Abarán. As soon as you leave Blanca you will find the Las Canales Laundry and the Waterwheel of Miguelico Núñez shortly thereafter. Walk through this section along the left bank of the river Segura and see how the riverside vegetation, fruit trees, date palms, and pine forests on the nearby slopes intermingle and create the characteristic landscape that attracts attention to Blanca and its surroundings. Pass the gates of Villa Cruz known for the ceramic cat on their roof and from which the popular expression "being more blind than the Villa Cruz cat" was born.

Sierra del Solán and Sierra de la Carraíla are on the right. The journey continues to the Waterwheel of Félix Cayetano. Just before entering Abarán a road bearing left leads to the Bridge of Nicolás's Pier (Puente del Embarcadero de Nicolás) from which you can follow the path to the right towards the dam and El Jarrax where you can enjoy a well deserved rest and a very well preserved riverbank vegetation that constitutes a singular place of shining beauty (**A and B**).

2. The Bridge of Nicolás's Pier (1.4km) The journey continues along Soto Damián - Cañada Hidalgo road signposted from the bridge. It continues in parallel to a bypass channel of the Segura that leads to the old Nicolás Gómez Tornero Hydroelectric Power Plant inaugurated at the beginning of the last century to provide electricity to Abarán (**C**).

The route continues following the signs of the ecotourism itinerary in the direction of Blanca. You can enjoy the landscape of the traditional orchards that regulates and takes advantage of the river through the use of waterwheels and ditches. There are houses that are more than two centuries old scattered throughout the orchards as well as the remains of the Cañada de Hidalgo's river waterwheel.

3. Cabezo de Corona (0.7km) The fortified granary of Andarraix (D) is located here. Continue along a dirt track that runs through fruit and olive trees until you reach the Darrax area. This place was one of the farmhouses or a small nucleus in the Islamic times to which the communal granary mentioned above belonged, as indicated by the Darrax - Al-Darrax - Andarraix toponymy.

4. El Darrax (1km) This section runs along a path lined with cypress trees and traditional orchards. It becomes a sort of lucky walk with poplars and hedges until it narrows and becomes a stony path resulting from rock falls and landslides. In the distance beyond the river you can see the Peña Negra and the Castle at whose feet the urban nucleus of Blanca extends. After crossing the Rambla de las Multas or "la Tejera" as it is known in Blanca, the path is cemented through fenced farms. At this point follow the signs for PR-MU8 of the footpath of the Moriscoes (Senda de los Moriscos) until you reach the road that passes through Los Tollos.

5. Los Tollos (1km) Follow the road to the left until you reach the Arenal where you can enjoy a good summer bath (E). After passing the Runes and crossing the iron bridge you will reach the starting point.

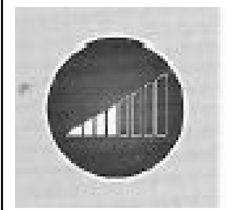
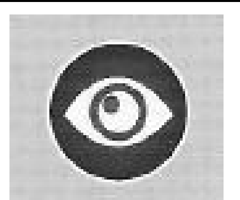
11 Route 7 →

11.1 Discovering the Sierra de la Pila

Fuente de la Canaleta ▸ *Camino de Sanjoy* ▸ *Barranco del Mulo* ▸ *El Saltador*

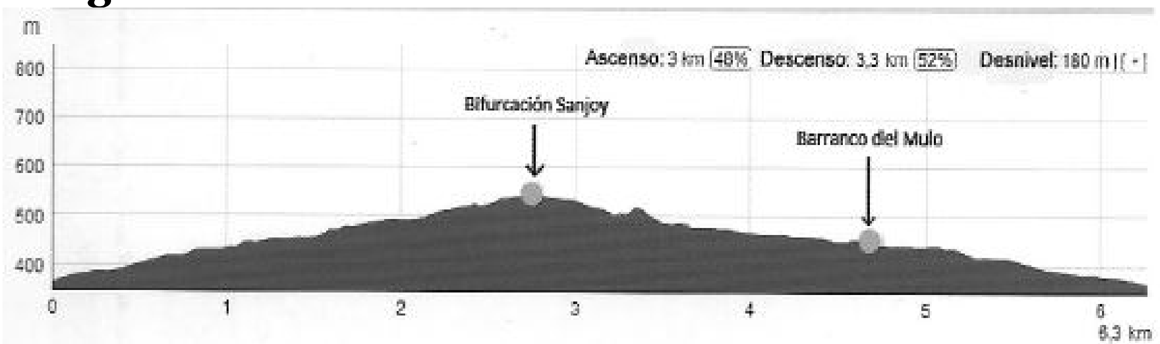


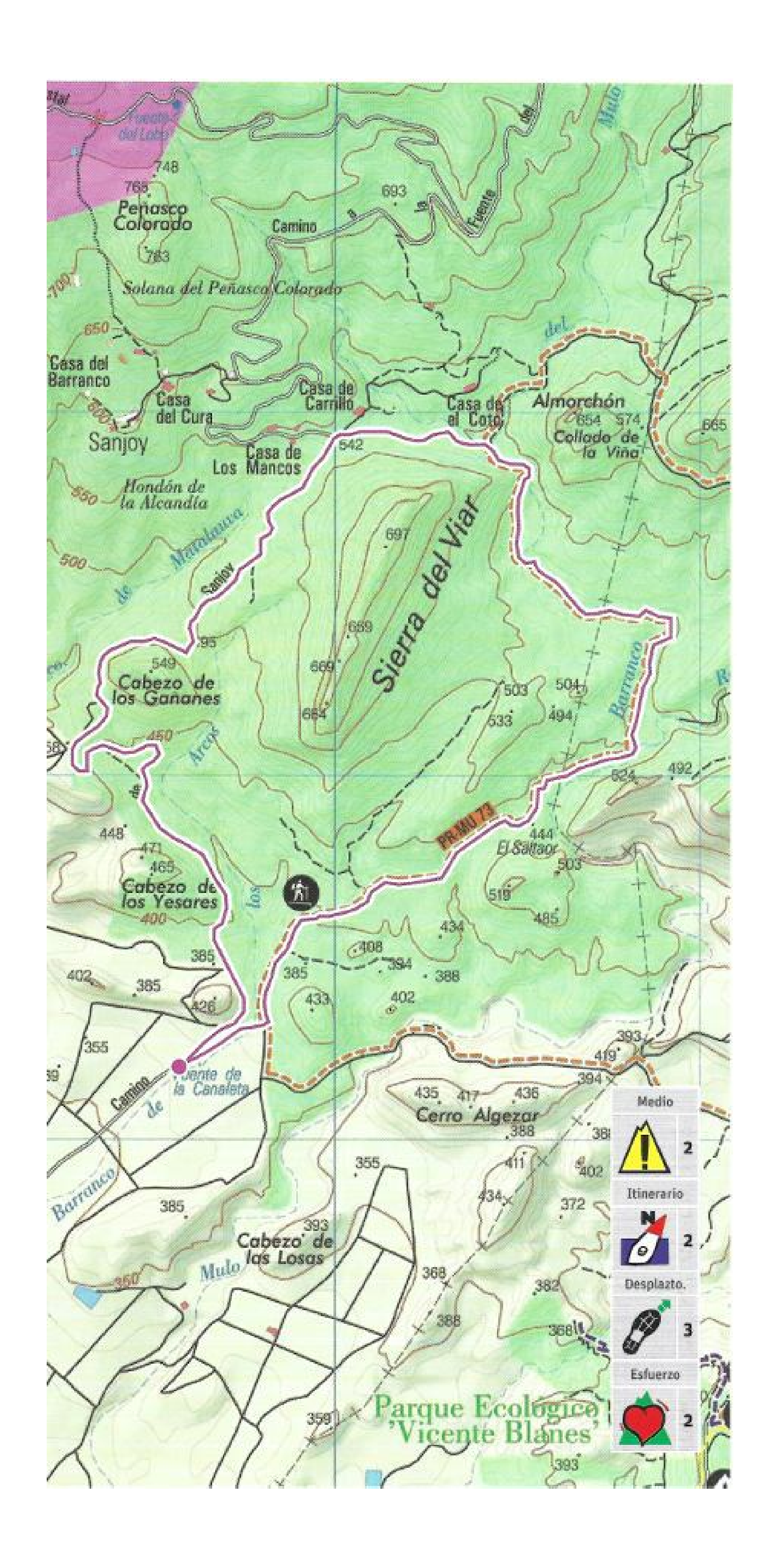
Sierra de la Pila is one of the seven natural spaces in the Region of Murcia classified as a Regional Park. It extends over the municipalities of Blanca, Abarán, Molina de Segura, and Fortuna. It has an area of 8,836ha and some very interesting ecological, landscape, and geological values that will arouse the curiosity of anyone who decides to go on this journey.

	Data sheet
	**Distance:** 6.3km
	Approximate duration: 2 hours 30 minutes
	**Ascent slope:** 230m
	Descent slope: 230m
	Cartography: Sheets 891-II and IV of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	**Optimal time of completion:** recommended throughout the year, although in the middle part of the summer days it is necessary to take protection against the sun and high temperatures. Its course through ravines and dried riverbeds requires avoiding it in torrential rains or the probability of their occurrence.
	**Access:** The starting point is accessed from the Fuente de la Canaleta which is reached from Blanca by the MU553 road to the Industrial Park taking the N344 towards Blanca Station. After crossing this road take the MU20A (El Rellano road) to the right until a detour at Casa de Serrano about 8km away signposted with signs for the Sierra de la Pila Regional Park.



Longitudinal




Peñasco Colorado
Camino
Solana del Peñasco Colorado
Casa del Barranco
Casa del Cura
Casa de Carrillo
Casa del Coto
Almorchón
Collado de la Viña
Sanjoy
Casa de Los Mancos
Hondón de la Alcandía
Sierra del Viar
Cabezo de los Gañanes
Cabezo de los Yesares
PR-MU 73
El Saltaor
Cerro Algezar
Cabezo de las Losas
Parque Ecológico 'Vicente Blanes'
Medio
2
Itinerario
2
Desplazto.
3
Esfuerzo
2



Ruta 7 ➲ Conociendo la Sierra de la Pila

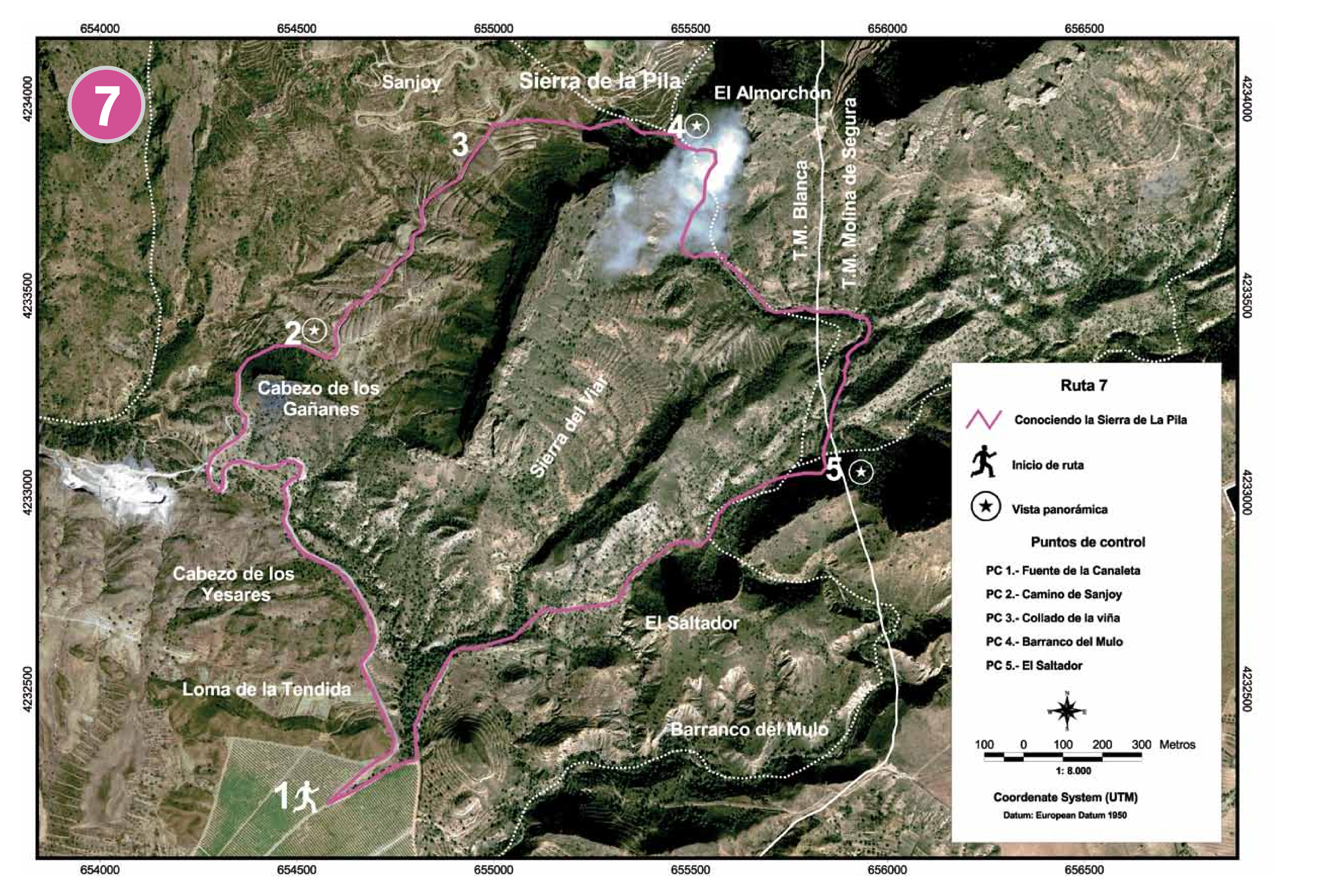
1 Fuente de la Canaleta (2 km). Comienza en la Fuente de la Canaleta, lugar que se encuentra marcado con carteles del Parque Regional de la Sierra de la Pila y donde había un antiguo acueducto del que apenas se mantiene en pie una pequeña parte.
Se asciende por una pista de tierra paralela al Barranco de los Arcos hasta llegar al Cabezo de los Yesares, un afloramiento triásico en el que se explota el yeso en la actualidad. Dejando la cantera atrás se rodea el Cabezo de los Gañanes **(A y B)**.

2 Camino de Sanjoy (0,8 km). A media altura en la montaña hay unas viviendas en estado de abandono entre terrazas de cultivo que en su día sustentarían los pies de espléndidos olivos y almendros **(C)**. Se trata del antiguo Caserío de Sanjoy, abandonado casi por completo hace unos 50 años. Antiguamente se dedicaba al cultivo de cereal, olivo, almendro y a la apicultura.
Al llegar a la Casa de Carrillo aparece un cruce de cuatro caminos en forma de X en el que hay que tomar el primer camino a la derecha

3 Collado de la Viña (0,4 m). Estrechándose considerablemente hasta convertirse en senda, el camino transcurre entre antiguos cultivos de secano hoy abandonados casi en su totalidad.
Por esta senda se llega a un nuevo cruce en medio del Collado de la Viña rodeado de dos gigantes como son El Almorchón y la Sierra del Viar. Se toma el pedregoso camino que se dirige a la derecha.

4 Barranco del Mulo (1,4 km). Este camino que se dirige hacia el sur bordeando El Almorchón sigue el cauce del renombrado Barranco del Mulo que tiene su nacimiento a casi 800 metros de altitud en la Sierra de la Pila. Se trata de un Lugar de Interés Geológico de la Región de Murcia que presenta numerosas estructuras geológicas generadas por los fenómenos tectónicos de la orogenia Alpina y por procesos geomorfológicos como la acción erosiva del agua de escorrentía concentradas en su recorrido.
De este modo, en pocos metros se dan cambios de paisaje desde cárcavas en yesos a roquedos calizos y areniscas redondeadas, siempre a los pies de cerros impresionantes desde esta posición **(D)**. Destaca en este lugar la importancia de la vegetación como freno a la erosión, en el cauce de la rambla.
Tras casi kilómetro y medio caminando por este barranco se llega a la Rambla de la Cerverosa, momento en el que hay que salir del cauce por una senda a la derecha, señalizada por marcas de PR de color blanco y amarillo.

5 El Saltador (1,7 km). Esta senda transcurre por densos espartales (*Stipa tenacissima, Lygeum spartum*) con manchas aisladas de pinos (*Pinus halepensis*).
Se recorren las faldas de un cerro denominado “El Saltador”, emplazamiento de la importante colonia de chova piquirroja (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) por la que la Sierra de la Pila fue declarada Zona de Especial Protección para las Aves **(E)**. Se trata de un ave rupícola de la familia de los córvidos cuya población disminuyó considerablemente hasta ponerla en peligro por el uso de venenos y el abandono de cultivos tradicionales.
La senda pasa a ser un camino de mayor anchura llegando de nuevo al punto de partida.



7
654000
654500
655000
655500
656000
656500
4234000
4233500
4233000
4232500
Sanjoy
Sierra de la Pila
El Almorchón
T.M. Blanca
T.M. Molina de Segura
Cabezo de los Gañanes
Sierra del Viar
Cabezo de los Yesares
El Saltador
Loma de la Tendida
Barranco del Mulo
1
2
3
4
5
Ruta 7
Conociendo la Sierra de La Pila
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Fuente de la Canaleta
PC 2.- Camino de Sanjoy
PC 3.- Collado de la viña
PC 4.- Barranco del Mulo
PC 5.- El Saltador
100 0 100 200 300 Metros
1: 8.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950

Route 7 → Discovering Sierra de la Pila

1. The Canaleta Fountain (2km) The route begins at the Fuente de la Canaleta, a place marked with posters of the Sierra de la Pila Regional Park and where there was an old aqueduct of which only a small part remains standing.

Go up by a dirt track parallel to the Barranco de los Arcos until you reach the Cabezo de los Yesares, a Triassic outcrop where plaster is currently being extracted. Cabezo de los Gañanes (**A and B**) will surround you as you leave the quarry behind.

2. Sanjoy Road (0.8km) Halfway up the mountain there are some houses in a state of abandonment among cultivation terraces that in their days supported the bases of splendid olive and almond trees (**C**). It is the old hamlet of Sanjoy, almost completely abandoned about 50 years ago. It was formerly dedicated to the cultivation of cereal, olive, almond trees, and bees. When you arrive at the House of Carrillo, a four-way junction appears where you have to take the first path to the right.

3. Vineyard Hill (0.4m) The road, narrowing considerably until it becomes a path, runs among old dry-land crops which are almost completely abandoned today.

This path leads to a new crossroads in the middle of Collado de la Viña surrounded by the two giants El Almorchón and the Sierra del Viar. Take the stony path that leads to the right.

4. Ravine of the Mulo (1.4km) This path that leads south bordering El Almorchón follows the channel of the renowned Barranco del Mulo that has its source at almost 800 meters of altitude in the Sierra de la Pila. It is a place of geological interest in the Region of Murcia that presents numerous geological structures generated by the tectonic phenomena of the Alpine orogeny and by geomorphological processes such as the erosive action of runoff water concentrated in its path.

The landscape changes in a few meters from gypsum gullies to limestone rocky and rounded sandstones, always at the foot of impressive hills from this position (**D**). The importance of the vegetation as a brake on erosion stands out in the channel of the dry riverbed.

After almost a kilometer and a half walking through this ravine you will reach the Rambla de la Cerverosa. At this point you have to leave the riverbed along a path to the right marked by white and yellow PR marks.

5. El Saltador (1.7km) This path runs through areas of dense esparto grass (*Stipa tenacissima, Lygeum spartum*) with isolated spots of pine trees (*Pinus halepensis*). The slopes of a hill called El Saltador are traversed, and this is the site of the important hill of red-billed chough (*Pyrrchocorax Pyrrcho-corax*) through which the Sierra de la Pila was declared an area of special protection of birds (E). It is a rupicolous bird from the corvid family whose population decreased enough to put it in danger of extinction due to the use of pesticides and the abandonment of traditional crops. The path becomes wider, and leads back to the starting point.

12 Route 8 →

12.1 Sanjoy - Sierra de la Pila

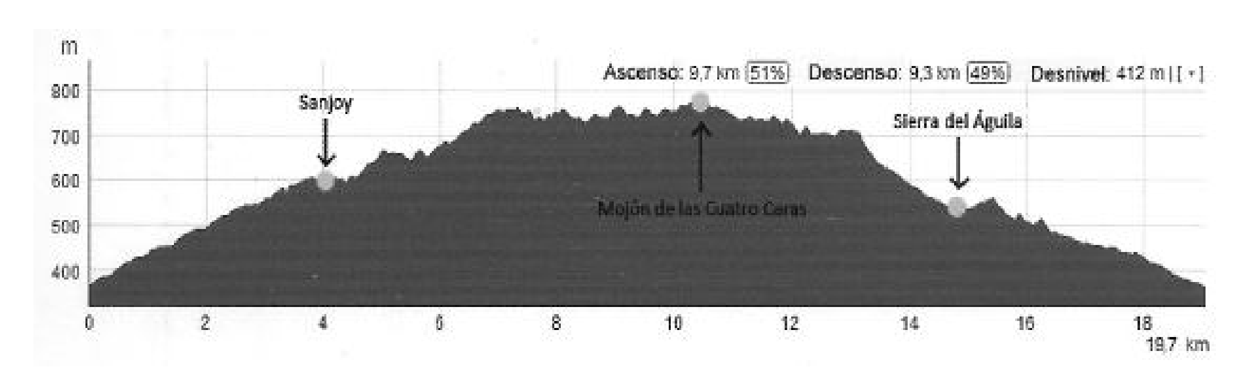
Fuente de la Canaleta ▸ *Camino de Sanjoy* ▸ *Sanjoy y Peñasco Colorado* ▸ *Camino a la Fuente del Lobo* ▸ *Pista Forestal* ▸ *Bajada hacia el Barranco del Mulo* ▸ *Barranco del Mulo* ▸ *El Saltador*

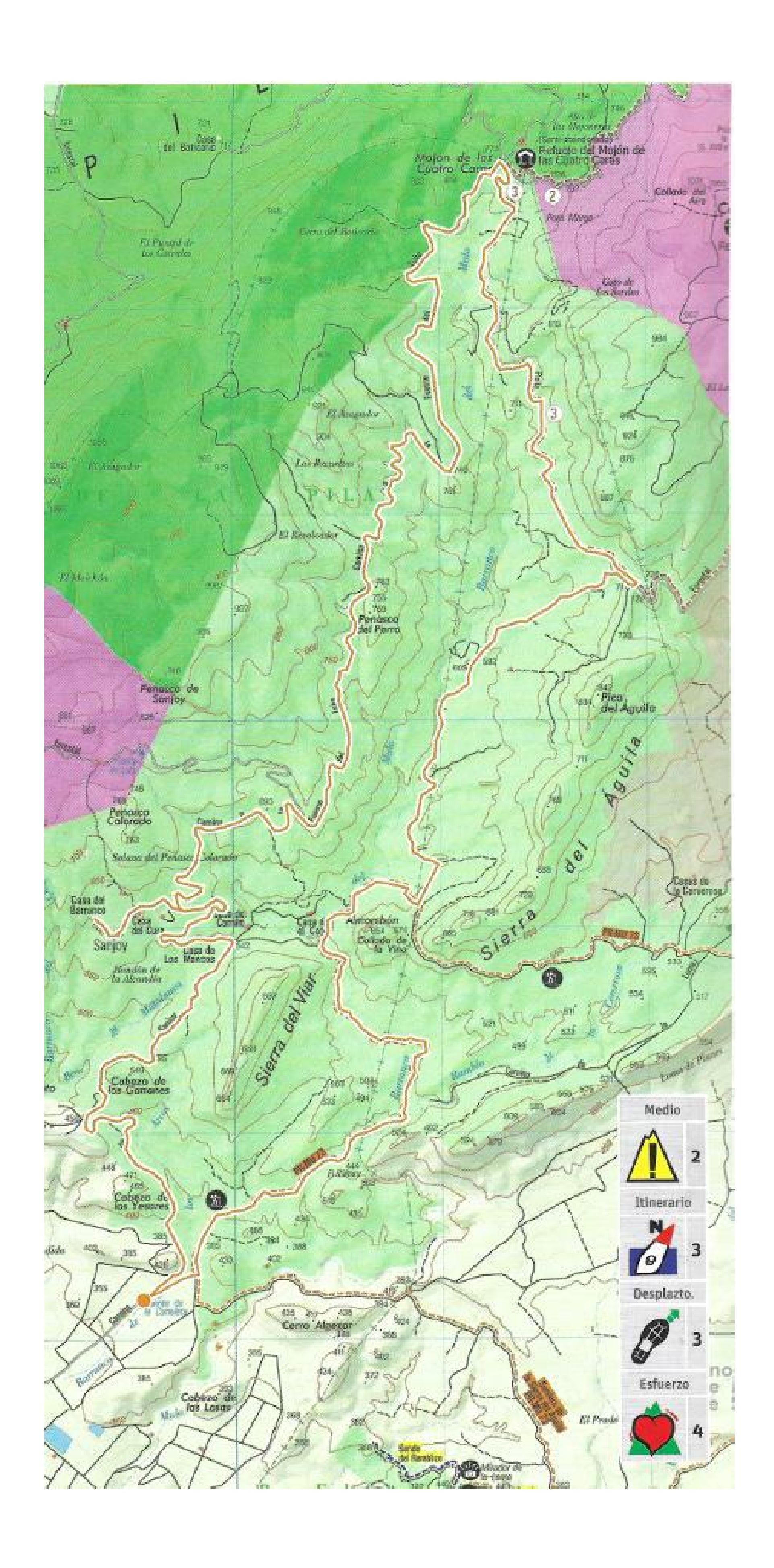


This route enters the Sierra de la Pila Regional Park and gives rise to a longer and more difficult journey. The park is an area of special protection of birds (ZEPA), as well as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) of the Natura 2000 Network. Numerous traces of geological and geomorphological history are evident along the way, and it is possible to observe birds of prey such as the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) or peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

	Data sheet
	Distance: 19.7km
	Approximate duration 7 hours
	Ascent slope: 861m
	Descent slope: 861m
	Cartografía: Hoja 891-II and 891-IV of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year, although in the middle part of the summer days it is necessary to take protection against the sun and high temperatures. Its course through ravines and dried riverbeds requires avoiding it in the event of torrential rains or the probability of their occurrence.
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the Fuente de la Canaleta, which is reached from Blanca by the MU553 road to the Industrial Park taking the N344 towards Blanca Station. After crossing this road, take the MU20A (El Rellano road) to the right until a detour at Casa de Serrano about 8km away signposted with signs for the Sierra de la Pila Regional Park.

Longitudinal profile





Medio
2
Itinerario
3
Desplazto.
3
Esfuerzo
4
Mojón de los Cuatro Caras
Refugio del Mojón de las Cuatro Caras
Collado del Aire
Cerro del Boticario
El Pinsal de los Carrales
El Anguador
Las Bayadeas
El Revoleador
Peñasco del Perro
Pico del Aguila
Sierra del Aguila
Peñasco de Sanjoy
Peñasco Colorado
Solana del Peñasco Colorado
Casa del Barranco
Sanjoy
Casa de Los Moncas
Rincón de la Alcandía
Almorchón
Collado de la Viña
Sierra del Viar
Cabezo de los Gamones
Cabezo de los Yesares
Cerro Algezar
Cabezo de las Losas
Casas de la Cerverosa
El Prado



Ruta 8 ➲ Sanjoy - Sierra de la Pila

1 **Fuente de la Canaleta** (2 km). Ver punto 1 de la Ruta 7.

2 **Camino de Sanjoy** (0,8 km). Ver punto 2 de la Ruta 7.

3 **Sanjoy y Peñasco Colorado** (3,2 km). En lugar de bajar tomando el camino de la derecha como en la ruta anterior, se sube a la izquierda por la pista forestal en zig-zag **(A)**. Para llegar al centro del antiguo poblado hay que dejar el camino en un desvío a la izquierda al llegar a la "Casa del Cura" tal y como figura en los mapas.
El camino conduce a una explanada culminada por un risco orientado al sur a modo de mirador natural desde el que se tiene una panorámica del municipio de Blanca y los colindantes, así como de las elevaciones que los rodean: El Almorchón, la Sierra del Viar o El Saltador. Se vuelve sobre los pasos para continuar girando a la izquierda donde tomamos el devío hacia Sanjoy, pasando así a los pies del "Peñasco Colorado" cuyo nombre es debido a los materiales rojizos de las rocas que sobresalen en su punto más alto.

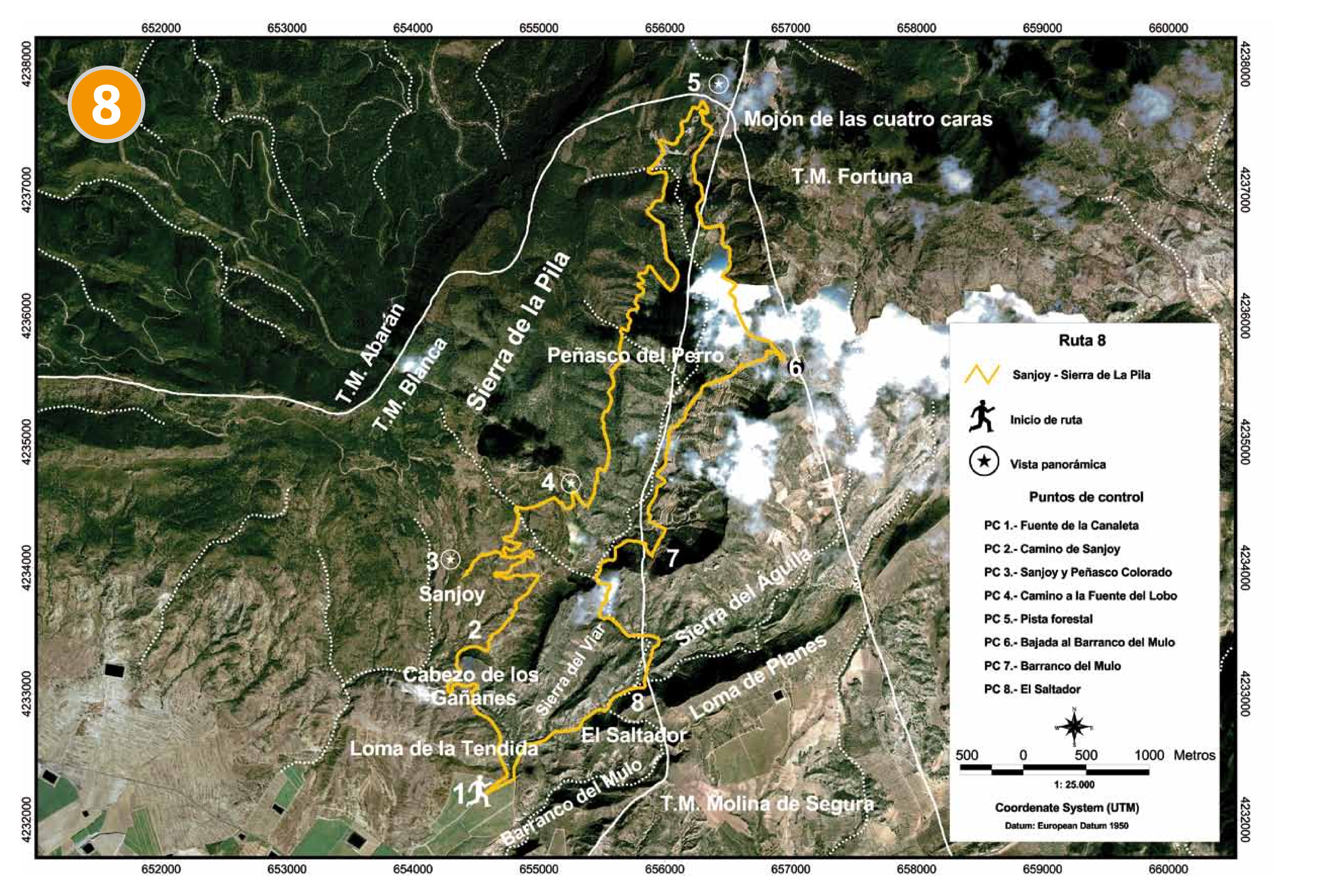
4 **Camino a la Fuente del Lobo** (4,8 km). Transcurre por la pista forestal que va en dirección norte hacia el interior del Parque Regional, cruza cuatro ramblas que vierten sus cauces temporales en el Barranco del Mulo, que divide los dos grandes macizos de la Sierra de la Pila. A lo largo de todo este tramo hay numerosas huellas de la historia geológica de la zona, como el impresionante pliegue volcado del Peñasco del Perro **(B)** que refleja los importantes esfuerzos compresivos sufridos por las rocas y numerosos estratos de calizas o areniscas diaclasadas. Al este, el pico de Los Cenajos **(C)**, con 1.226 metros de altitud, coronado por la Casa Forestal. La pista llega al Mojón de las Cuatro Caras, un gran cruce de caminos señalizados mediante cartelería del Parque Regional por el que girar por el primer camino que sale a la derecha en dirección a la Garapacha, Fuente Blanca y Fortuna.

5 **Pista forestal** (2,8 km). Durante algo más de dos kilómetros y medio se sigue por esta pista forestal en descenso constante, pasando junto a una casa excavada en la ladera de la montaña, ya en ruinas y abandonada pero de la que queda la fachada exterior **(D)**. Durante la mayor parte de este tramo se encuentra el Barranco del Mulo en paralelo a la derecha del camino. Al final, se encuentra un camino con elevada pendiente descendente a la derecha que se desvía de la pista forestal que lleva a la Garapacha.

6 **Bajada hacia Barranco del Mulo** (3 km). Se discurre por cultivos de secano de olivo y almendro, algunos de ellos en estado de abandono fruto del conocido éxodo rural unido a la dificultad de accesos a la zona **(E)**.
A los pies de la Sierra del Águila se pueden observar rapaces como el águila real (*Aquila chrysaetos*), el halcón peregrino (*Falco peregrinus*) o el cernícalo vulgar (*Falco tinnunculus*), que encuentran en los salientes y oquedades de los abruptos relieves, lugares donde nidificar. Estas rapaces se ven acompañadas de especies como el vencejo real (*Tachymarptis melba*), vencejo común (*Apus apus*), avión roquero (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*), roquero solitario (*Monticola solitarius*), collalba negra (*Oenanthe leucura*), colirrojo tizón (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) o gorrión chillón (*Petronia petronia*).

7 **Barranco del Mulo** (1,4 km). Ver punto 4 de la Ruta 7.

8 **El Saltador** (1,7 km). Ver punto 5 de la Ruta 7.


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Mojón de las cuatro caras
T.M. Fortuna
T.M. Abarán
T.M. Blanca
Sierra de la Pila
Peñasco del Perro
6
4
3
Sanjoy
7
2
Sierra del Aguila
Sierra del Viar
Cabezo de los Gañanes
Loma de Planes
8
El Saltador
Loma de la Tendida
Barranco del Mulo
1
T.M. Molina de Segura
Ruta 8
Sanjoy - Sierra de La Pila
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Fuente de la Canaleta
PC 2.- Camino de Sanjoy
PC 3.- Sanjoy y Peñasco Colorado
PC 4.- Camino a la Fuente del Lobo
PC 5.- Pista forestal
PC 6.- Bajada al Barranco del Mulo
PC 7.- Barranco del Mulo
PC 8.- El Saltador
500 0 500 1000 Metros
1: 25.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950

Route 8 → Sanjoy – Sierra de la Pila

1. The Canaleta Fountain (2km) See point 1 of Route 7.

2. Sanjoy road (0.8km) See point 2 of Route 7.

3. Sanjoy and the Coloured Rock (3.2km) Instead of going down taking the path to the right as in the previous route go up to the left along the zigzag forest track (A). To get to the center of the old town you have to leave the road on a detour to the left when you reach the Casa del Cura as it appears on the maps.

The path leads to an esplanade culminating in a south-facing cliff as a natural viewpoint from which there is a panoramic view of the municipality of Blanca and the surrounding areas, as well as the elevations that surround them: El Almorchón, Sierra del Viar, and El Saltador. Go back over the steps bearing left where you'll take a detour towards Sanjoy, thus pass the foot of Peñasco Colorado whose name is reflected in the reddish materials of the rocks that stand out at its highest point.

4. The Road to the Fountain of the Wolf (4.8km) runs along the forest track that runs north towards the interior of the Regional Park and crosses four dry riverbeds that pour their temporary channels into the Barranco del Mulo (Ravine of the Mulo) which divides the two large massifs of the Sierra de la Pila. Throughout this section there are numerous traces of the geological history of the area, such as the impressive overturned fold of the Peñasco del Perro (The Dog's Rock) (B) that reflects the significant compressive stresses suffered by the rocks and numerous strata of limestone or jointed sandstone. To the east

is the peak of Los Cenajos (C) at 1,226 meters of altitude, crowned by the Casa Forestal (the Forest House). The track reaches the Mojón de las Cuatro Caras (Caim of the Four Faces), a crossroads that leads to the right in the direction of Garapacha, Fuente Blanca (White Fountain), and Fortuna.

5. The forest path (2.8km) Continue along this forest path in constant descent for a little over two and a half kilometers, passing by an abandoned house in ruins dug into the mountainside of which the exterior facade remains (D). During most of this section the Barranco del Mulo (Ravine of the Mulo) is found parallel to the right of the road. At the end there is a path with a steep downward slope to the right that deviates from the forest path which leads to Garapacha.

6. Descent towards the Barranco del Mulo (3km) It runs through rainfed olive and almond tree crops, some of them in a state of abandonment as a result of the well known rural exodus coupled with difficult access to the area (E).

At the foot of the Sierra del Águila you can see raptors such as the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), or the common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculos),* which find places to nest in the projections and hollows of the abrupt reliefs. These birds of prey are accompanied by species such as the Alpine swift (*Tachymarptis melba),* the common swift (*Apus apus*), the crag martin (*Ptynoprogne rupestris*), the blue rock thrush (*Monticola solitarius*), the black wheatear (*Oenanthe leucura*), the redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), or the rock sparrow (*Petronia petronia*).

7. Barranco del Mulo (1.4km) See point 4 of Route 7.

8. El Saltador (1.7km) See point 5 of Route 7.

13 Route 9 →

13.1 Rambla de la Tejera – Cañada de Gil

Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo ▸ *Camino a la yesera* ▸ *Rambla de la Tejera* ▸ *Salinas del Curro* ▸ *Collado de la Fuente de Rosa* ▸ *Cruce de los Cuatro Caminos* ▸ *Cañada de Gil* ▸ *Rambla del Puente.*

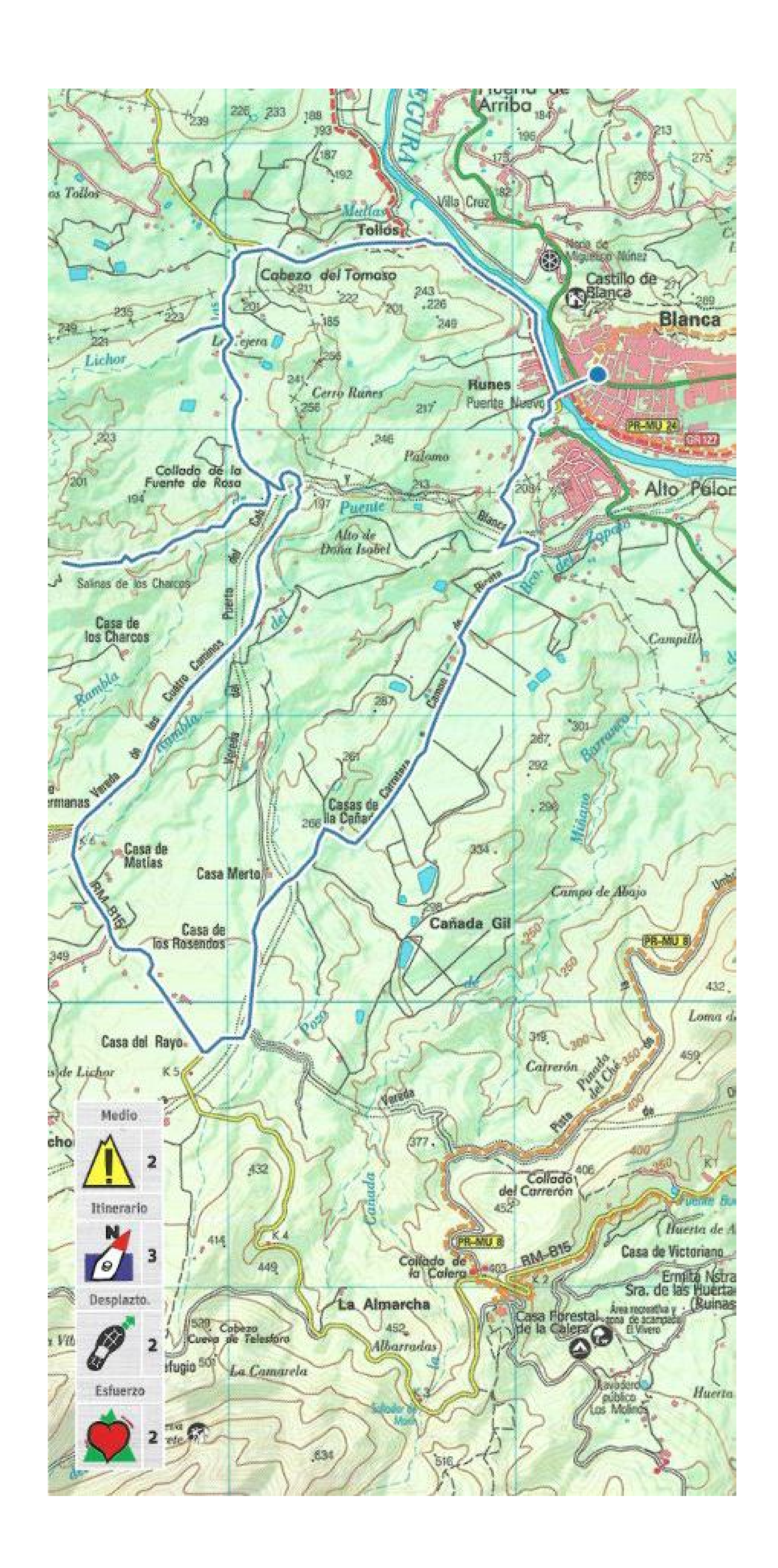


Throughout the history of man there are traditional uses and activities that have been transformed and improved or that have been lost and have not reached the present: old artisanal farms, and plaster and salt works (Gómez and Gil, 2010). This route runs through these spaces, observing how abandonment leads to degradation and favours erosive processes, loss of soil, landscape, the proliferation of invasive species, and consequent environmental problems.

	Data sheet
	Distance: 10km
	Approximate duration: 3 hours
	Ascent slope: 274m
	Descent slope: 274m
	Cartography: Sheet 891-III and 912-I of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year, although in the middle part of the summer days it is necessary to take protection against the sun and high temperatures. Its course through ravines and dried riverbeds requires avoiding it in torrential rains or the probability of their occurrence.
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the MU553 road that starts from the N301 of the MU514 road Blanca-Abarán section, or through the MU520 Ojós-Blanca road.

Longitudinal profile




Medio
2
Itinerario
3
Desplazto.
2
Esfuerzo
2



Ruta 9 ➔ Rambla de la Tejeda - Cañada de Gil

1 **Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo** (1,8 km). Comienza hacia el Puente de Hierro que enlaza con la carretera B-17. Se pasan el Runes y Los Tollos, rodeando el Cabezo del Tomaso. En este punto la carretera cruza la Rambla de las Multas o de la Tejera, como es conocida en Blanca. Continúa el camino aguas arriba por dicha rambla a mano izquierda, pasando por un camino excavado por el agua entre la Loma de Patras y el Cabezo del Tomaso. Se entra en un paisaje conformado por arcillas, margas y yesos y vegetación típica de las ramblas y ambientes húmedos, así como alguna especie asociada a suelos salinos, como el taray (*Tamarix canariensis, T. boveana*). Al pasar la Loma de Patras se toma un desvío a la derecha.

2 **Camino a la yesera** (0,5 km). Se entra en la Rambla del Líchor, que desemboca en la de la Tejera. A la derecha del camino hay restos de un antiguo horno de yeso **(A)**. Tras este pequeño desvío se vuelve sobre los pasos para continuar aguas arriba por la Rambla de la Tejera.

3 **Rambla de La Tejera** (0,6 km). En este tramo la vegetación se hace más espesa, formada principalmente por carrizales (*Phragmites australis*), sosas (*Salsola spp.*), piteras (*Agave americana*) y tarayales. Se llega a una intersección cementada por la que se continúa el curso de la Rambla a la derecha hacia una antigua explotación salinera.

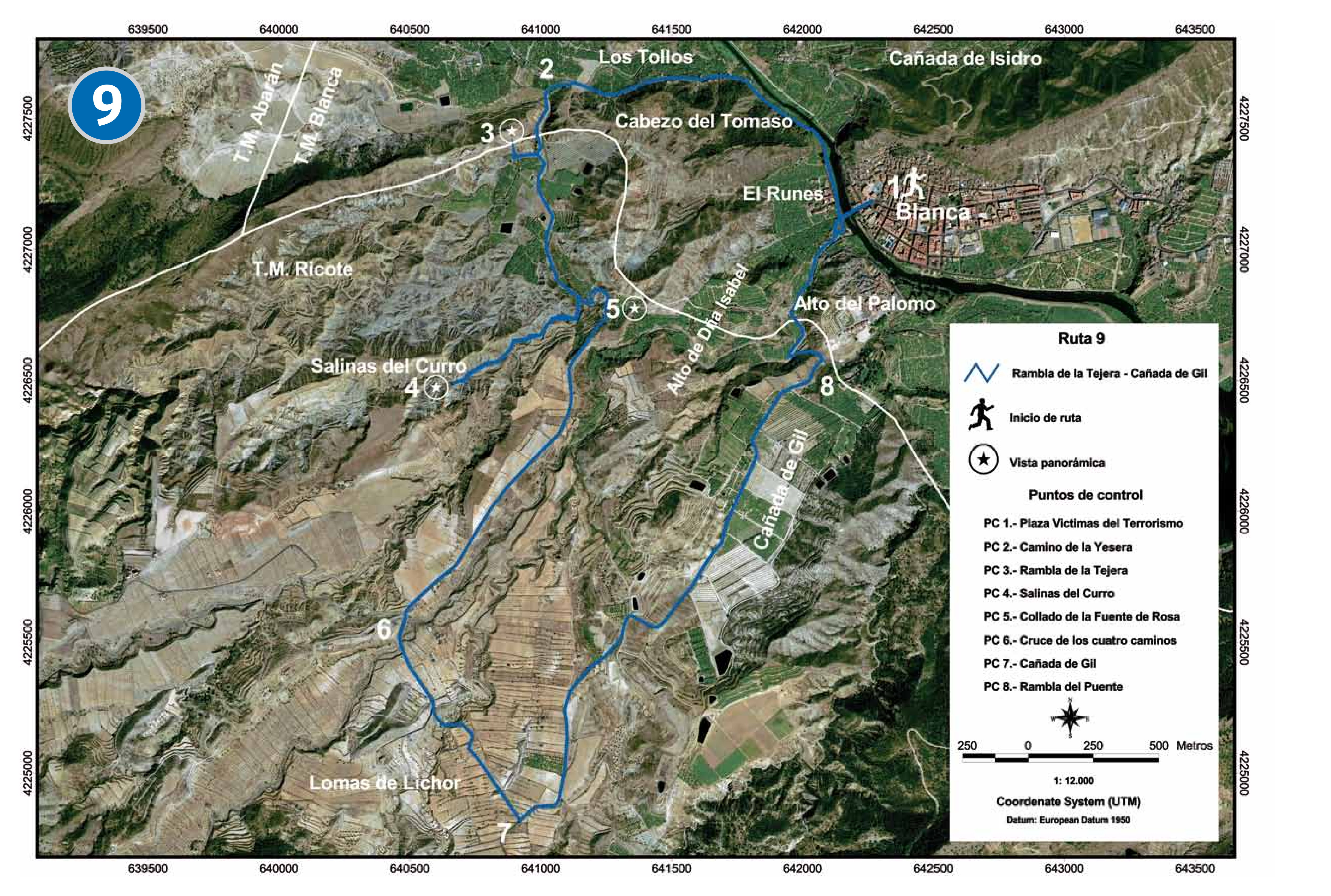
4 **Salinas del Curro** (1,3 km). Siguiendo el trazado de la Rambla de La Tejera nos adentramos en un paisaje con elevaciones de mayor tamaño. A 400 metros se abandona el perfil de la rambla para seguir un camino excavado por el agua y con señales de antropización, tales como muros de contención o diques con malla de acero. A unos 250 metros, la casa de las “Salinas del Curro” **(B)**. Posteriormente, se vuelve hasta la intersección cementada por la que girar a la derecha.

5 **Collado de la Fuente de Rosa** (1,6 km). Tras pasar por un collado se asciende haciendo un giro desde donde tenemos una panorámica del entorno subdesértico, formado por numerosos barrancos encajados entre pequeñas lomas **(C)**. Se descubren formaciones de las denominadas “chimeneas de hadas”. A lo largo de este tramo por carretera perteneciente a la antigua vía pecuaria de la Vereda de los Cuatro Caminos hay distintos grupos de casas, muchas de ellas ya abandonadas, con el consiguiente daño al patrimonio cultural y al entorno por el aumento de la erosión debida al abandono de los cultivos que sostenían estos frágiles materiales **(D)**.

6 **Cruce de los Cuatro Caminos** (1 km). Al llegar a este cruce, se hace un giro hacia la izquierda. Se recorre apenas un kilómetro mientras se observa la Sierra de Ricote. Se llega a un cruce donde virar a la izquierda hacia la Cañada Gil **(E)**.

7 **Cañada de Gil** (2,3 km). Se entra en otra de las cañadas que en el pasado vertebraban el territorio. En el relieve de la zona destaca el Cabezo de la Cobertera y la Sierra de la Carraíla. A la izquierda, la Sierra del Oro y el cerro de la Atalaya. Se emprende un marcado descenso entre cultivos de secano primero y de frutales de regadío más tarde. Pasamos el arco y a la carretera MU-520 y tomamos a la izquierda.

8 **Rambla del Puente** (0,9 km). Se alcanza la Rambla del Puente, continuación de la Rambla de Ambrós del municipio de Ricote. Acotada por carrizales y fincas de pequeña extensión, aguas abajo se llega hasta un puente de tres arcos que salva la carretera MU-520 hasta el Puente Nuevo que cruza el Río Segura, volviendo al punto de inicio.


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Los Tollos
Cañada de Isidro
2
T.M. Abarán
T.M. Blanca
3
Cabezo del Tomaso
El Runes
1
Blanca
T.M. Ricote
Alto de Dña Isabel
Alto del Palomo
5
Salinas del Curro
4
8
Cañada de Gil
6
Lomas de Lichor
7
Ruta 9
Rambla de la Tejera - Cañada de Gil
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Plaza Victimas del Terrorismo
PC 2.- Camino de la Yesera
PC 3.- Rambla de la Tejera
PC 4.- Salinas del Curro
PC 5.- Collado de la Fuente de Rosa
PC 6.- Cruce de los cuatro caminos
PC 7.- Cañada de Gil
PC 8.- Rambla del Puente
250
0
250
500
Metros
1: 12.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950

Route 9 → Rambla de la Tejeda – Cañada de Gil

1. **Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo** (1.8km) The route begins towards the Iron Bridge that connects with the B17 road. Pass the Runes and Los Tollos surrounding the Cabezo del Tomaso. At this point the road crosses the dry riverbed of the Rambla de las Multas - or de la Tejera as it is known in Blanca. The path continues upstream along this promenade on the left, passing through a path dug by the water between Loma de Patras and Cabezo del Tomaso.

   You will enter a landscape of clay, marl, and gypsum with the typical vegetation for the dry riverbeds and humid environments as well as species associated with saline soils, such as the taray (Tamarix canariensis, T. boveana). After passing Loma de Patras take a detour to the right.

2. **Road to the plaster works (Camino a la yesera)** (0.5km) Enter the dry riverbed of the Líchor (Rambla del Líchor) which ends at the dry riverbed of the Tejera. There are remains of an old plaster kiln (A) on the right of the path.

   After this short detour you will return to the steps to continue upstream along the dry riverbed of Rambla de la Tejera.

3. **Rambla de La Tejera** (0.6km) In this section the vegetation thickens, consisting mainly of reed beds (Phrogmites australis), sodas (Solsola spp.), Piteras (Agave americana), and tarayales or shrubs of the Tamarix genus. You will come to a cemented intersection where the course of the dry riverbed continues to the right towards an old salt mine.

4. Salinas del Curro (1.3km) Following the layout of the Rambla de La Tejera you will enter a landscape with higher elevations. The profile of the promenade is abandoned at 400 meters to follow a path dug by the water and with signs of anthropization, such as retaining walls or steel mesh dams. At about 250 meters you will see the house of the saltworks of Curro (Salinas del Curro) (B). You will return to the cemented intersection where you'll turn right.

5. Collado de La Fuente de Rosa (1.6km) After passing through a hill ascend making a turn from where you'll have a panoramic view of the subdesert environment formed by numerous ravines embedded among low hills (C). You will discover formations of the so-called "fairy chimneys". Along this section of the road belonging to the old cattle track of the Vereda de los Cuatro Caminos (footpath of the four ways) there are groups of houses, many of them abandoned, with the consequent damage to cultural heritage and the environment by increased erosion due to the abandonment of the crops that supported these fragile soils (D).

6. Cruce de los Cuatro Caminos (Crossroads of the Four Paths) [1 km] When you reach this junction, turn left. Travel one kilometer and admire the Sierra de Ricote. Come to a crossroads and turn left towards Cañada Gil (E).

7. Cañada de Gil (The Glen of Gil) (2.3km) Visit another one of the canyons that once formed the backbone of the territory. Cabezo de la Cobertera and Sierra de la Carrasla stand out in the relief of the area. Sierra del Oro and Cerro de la Atalaya are on the left. There is a marked decline of rainfed crops and irrigated fruit trees. Pass the arch and turn left on the MU520 road.

8. Rambla del Puente (0.9km) You will reach the dry riverbed of the bridge (Rambla del Puente) which is a continuation of the Rambla de Ambrós in the municipality of Ricote. Bounded by reed beds and small farms, going downstream you will reach a three-arch bridge that crosses the MU520 road to the New Bridge that crosses the river Segura, returning to the starting point.

14 Route 10 →

14.1 Cañada de Miñano – Sierra de Ricote

Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo ▸ Rambla de la Cañada de Miñano ▸ Vereda de Ojós ▸ Pista forestal ▸ Antiguo PR MU-36 ▸ Carretera MU-520

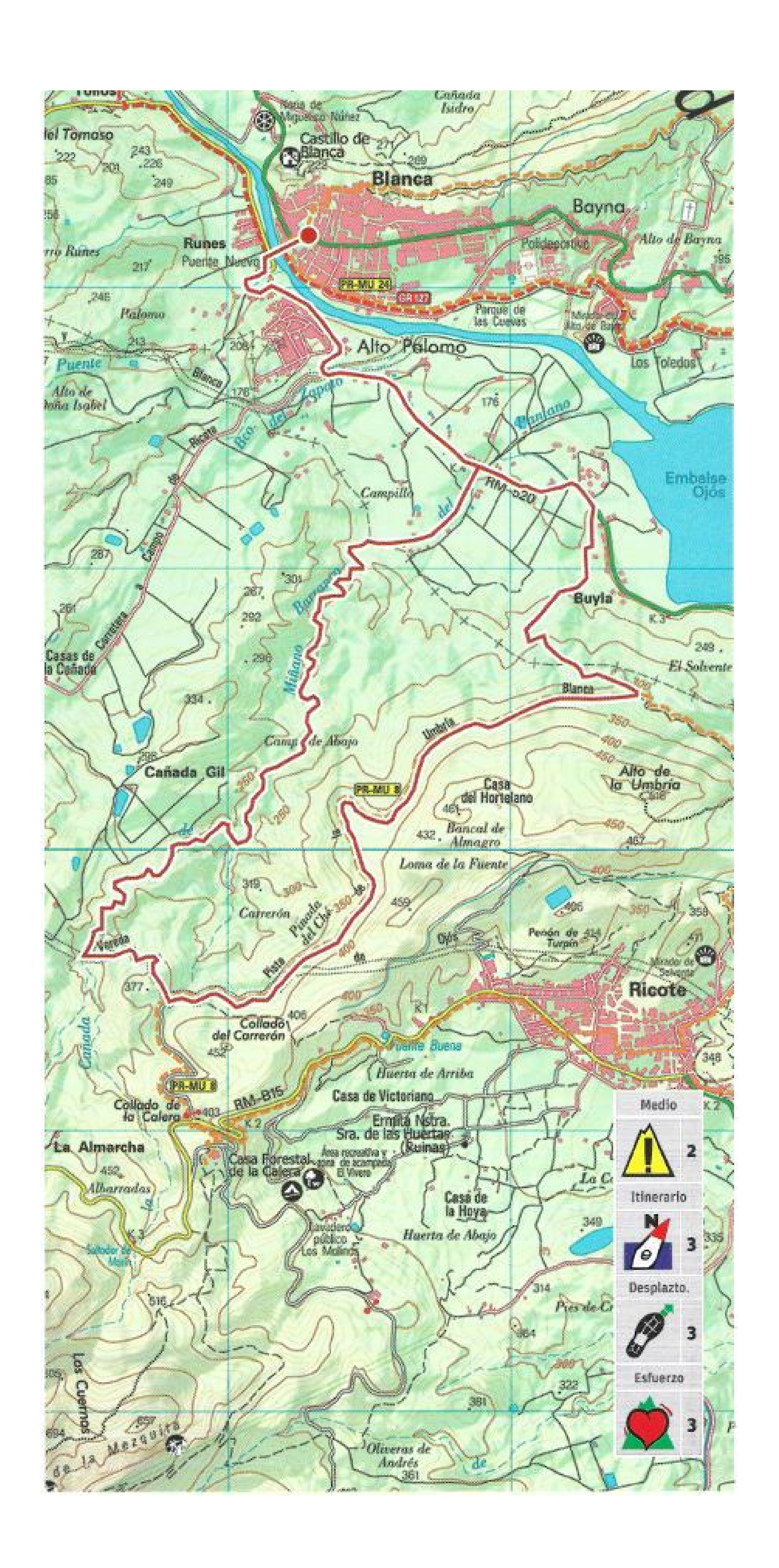


Along this route of high geological and landscape value follow the route of the Rambla de la Cañada de Miñano to enter the Sierra de Ricote. It is divided into two very different parts: the first being a path that involves some difficulty due to the irregularity of the terrain, but of great geological richness; the second being a forest track in the Sierra de Ricote, a more regular path that allows you to look up to discover panoramic views very representative of the area. Throughout the tour the importance of water as a modeler and creator of the landscape stands out. Thus great variation appears in a few kilometers joining subdesert ravines with shady slopes of lush pine forests.

	Data sheet
	Distance: 11km
	Approximate duration: 4 hours
	Ascent slope: 480m
	Descent slope: 480m
	Cartography: Sheet 891-III and 912-I of the National Topographic Map of Spain, scale 1:25.000
	Optimal time of completion: recommended throughout the year. Its course through ravines and dried riverbeds requires avoiding it in torrential rains or the probability of their occurrence. Some sections may be impassable due to water or mud.
	Access: The starting point is accessed from the MU553 road that starts from the N301 of the MU514 road Blanca-Abarán section, or through the MU520 Ojós-Blanca road.

Longitudinal profile





Castillo de Blanca
Blanca
Bayna
Runes
Puente Nuevo
Alto de Bayna
Polideportivo
PR-MU 24
GR 127
Parque de las Cuevas
Alto Palomo
Los Toledos
Embalse Ojós
Campillo
RM-520
Buyla
El Solvente
Casas de la Cañada
Cañada Gil
Camp. de Abajo
PR-MU 8
Alto de la Umbría
Casa del Hortelano
Bancal de Almagro
Loma de la Fuente
Carrerón
Peñón de Turpín
Ojós
Ricote
Collado del Carrerón
Fuente Buena
Huerta de Arriba
RM-B15
Casa de Victoriano
Collado de la Calera
La Almarcha
Ermita Ntra. Sra. de las Huertas (Ruinas)
Casa Forestal de la Calera
Albarradas
Casa de la Hoya
Huerta de Abajo
Los Molinos
Los Cuernos
Oliveras de Andrés
Medio
2
Itinerario
3
Desplazto.
3
Esfuerzo
3



Ruta 10 ➲ Cañada de Miñano - Sierra de Ricote

1 **Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo** (1,5 km). Se parte hacia el Puente de Hierro cruzándolo hacia la carretera MU-520 para ascender al Alto del Palomo. Se continúa por carretera dirección Ojós durante un kilómetro y medio entre fincas de cultivos de frutales y cítricos. Recorrida dicha distancia hay un ensanchamiento, a la derecha, en el que la Rambla de la Cañada de Miñano o Barranco del Pantano separa las verjas de entrada de dos propiedades.

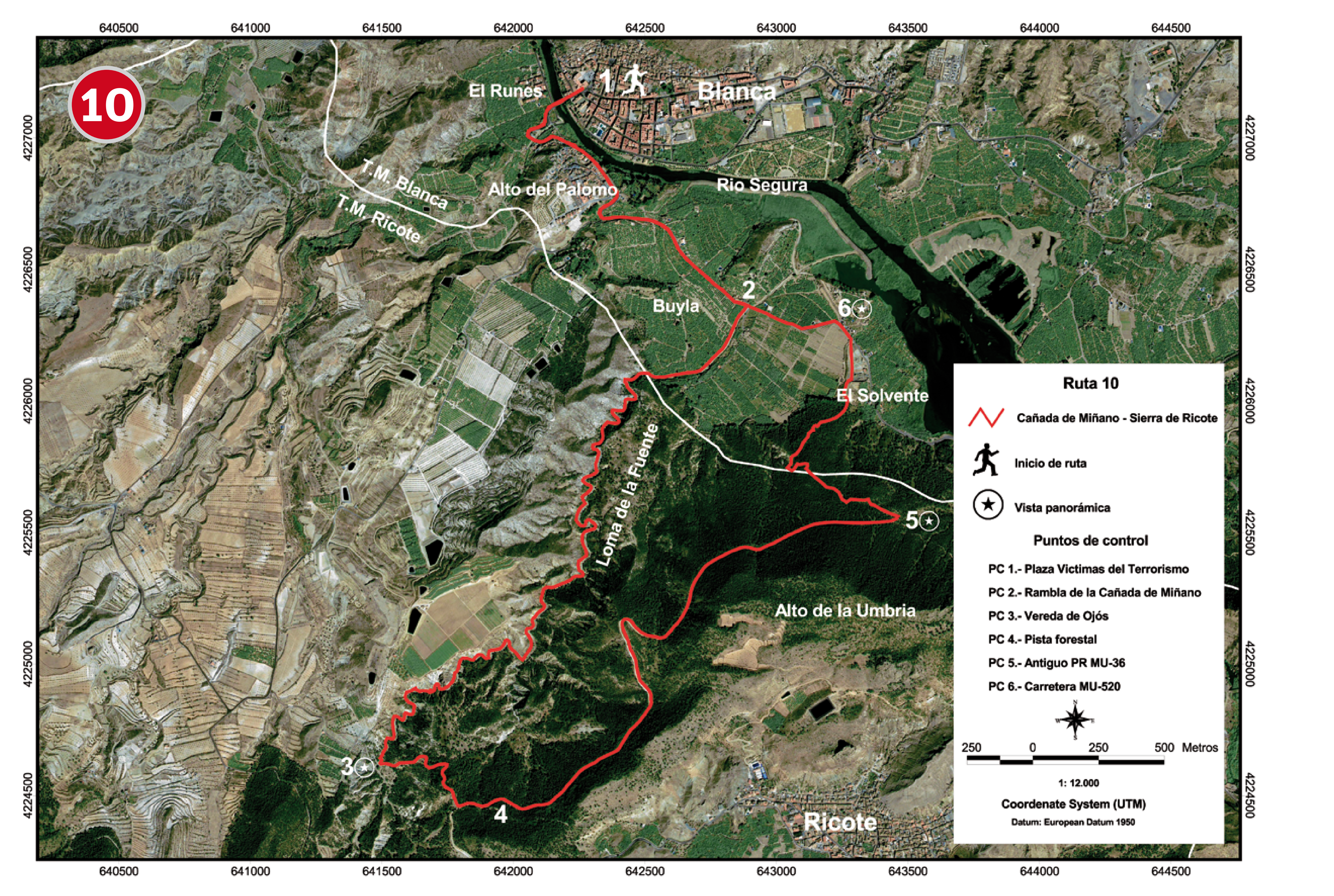
2 **Rambla de la Cañada de Miñano** (3,2 km). Se recorre el tramo final de esta rambla hasta encontrar un obstáculo en el camino que habrá que salvar bordeándolo por las fincas vecinas. Es una presa realizada en piedra a comienzos del siglo XIX, que cuenta con aliviaderos laterales para dispersar avenidas y que actualmente ha quedado en desuso **(A)**. Se observa un paisaje típico de rambla de montaña excavada entre rocas, con matorral y pinos de envergadura considerable. A lo largo de toda su longitud hay rocas calizas de gran tamaño desprendidas y desplazadas de su emplazamiento original por la acción del agua, así como gran cantidad de sedimentos de granulometría diversa. Es probable que durante el itinerario haya tramos encharcados e incluso pequeños hilos de agua que manan de las rocas o el suelo. En algunos de estos lugares pequeñas comunidades algales confirman que las zonas encharcadas no son tan temporales como el cauce de la rambla. De rocas grisáceas con tonos oscuros o azulados se pasa a paredes de tonalidades marrones o rojizas **(B)**. En todo el trayecto queda patente el importante papel del agua como modelador del paisaje creando una bella morfología. Comienzan a aparecer coloraciones amarillas o blancas en las paredes acarcavadas que asoman de vez en cuando en altura y en las que se aprecia perfectamente el depósito de distintos materiales arrastrados por el agua en estratos que han sobrevivido a la erosión hídrica. A continuación, se encuentra una pequeña explanada que puede encontrarse encharcada, teniendo que salvarla por la ladera de la derecha **(C)**. Hay lugares donde el yeso crea unas láminas de mayor dureza que se pliegan en un material de oscuro, de una forma parecida a una rosa del desierto gigante **(D)**. Poco después, una explanada aterrazada para cultivo por la que pasaba la ya extinta Vereda de Ojós, donde girar a la izquierda.

3 **Vereda de Ojós** (0,5 km). Durante medio kilómetro se sigue el antiguo trazado de la cañada de la Vereda de Ojós, uno de los numerosos pasos de ganado que vertebraban todo el territorio. La mayor parte del camino se encuentra erosionado por el agua, con lo que habrá que salvar distintas alturas **(E)**.

4 **Pista forestal** (2,6 km). En la pista forestal hay que girar de nuevo a la izquierda siguiendo las marcas del PR MU-8 o Senda de los Moriscos **(F)**. Tras dos kilómetros y medio se llega a los pies de la Ventanica de Ojós, donde hay que girar a la izquierda en un claro del bosque para tomar el antiguo PR MU-36.

5 **Antiguo PR MU-36** (1,2 km). En poco más de un kilómetro se desciende unos 170 m. En el tramo final una pequeña explanada ofrece unas bellas vistas del embalse y la huerta circundante y de la Sierra de la Navela, que termina en el Estrecho del Solvente por donde continúa el Río Segura para adentrarse en el municipio de Ojós **(G)**. En esta explanada hay un camino a la derecha y dos al frente, escogemos el que se encuentra más a la izquierda para llegar hasta la carretera MU-520.

6 **Carretera MU-520** (2 km). El camino de vuelta se hace por la misma carretera por la que se llega anteriormente a la rambla.



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4226000
4225500
4225000
4224500
1
El Runes
Blanca
T.M. Blanca
T.M. Ricote
Alto del Palomo
Rio Segura
2
Buyla
6
El Solvente
Loma de la Fuente
5
Alto de la Umbria
3
4
Ricote
Ruta 10
Cañada de Miñano - Sierra de Ricote
Inicio de ruta
Vista panorámica
Puntos de control
PC 1.- Plaza Victimas del Terrorismo
PC 2.- Rambla de la Cañada de Miñano
PC 3.- Vereda de Ojós
PC 4.- Pista forestal
PC 5.- Antiguo PR MU-36
PC 6.- Carretera MU-520
250 0 250 500 Metros
1: 12.000
Coordenate System (UTM)
Datum: European Datum 1950

Route 10 → Cañada de Miñano – Sierra de Ricote

1. Plaza de las Víctimas del Terrorismo (1.5km) Start towards the Iron Bridge crossing it towards the MU520 road to ascend to Alto del Palomo. Continue by road towards Ojós for a kilometer and a half between fruit and citrus growers. You'll come to a widening on the right where the dry riverbed of the Glen of the Miñano (Cañada de Miñano) or Ravine of the Reservoir (Barranco del Pantano) separates the entrance gates of two properties.

3. Rambla de la Cañada de Moñano (3.2km) Travel the final section of this dry riverbed until you find an obstacle on the road that will have to be cleared bordering the neighbouring farms. It is a dam made of stone at the beginning of the 19th century which has lateral spillways to disperse floods and is currently not in use (A). You can admire a typical landscape of a mountainous riverbed carved between rocks with shrubs and pine trees of a considerable size.

Along its entire length there are large limestone rocks detached and displaced from their original location by the action of water as well as a large amount of sediments of varying granulometry.

4. You are likely to encounter flooded sections and even small streams of water that flow from the rocks or the ground. Small algal communities in some of these places confirm that the flooded areas are not as temporary as the channel of the riverbed. From greyish rocks with dark or bluish tones you will pass towards walls with brown or reddish tones (B). The important role of water as a modeler of the landscape is evident throughout the journey, creating beautiful morphology. Yellow

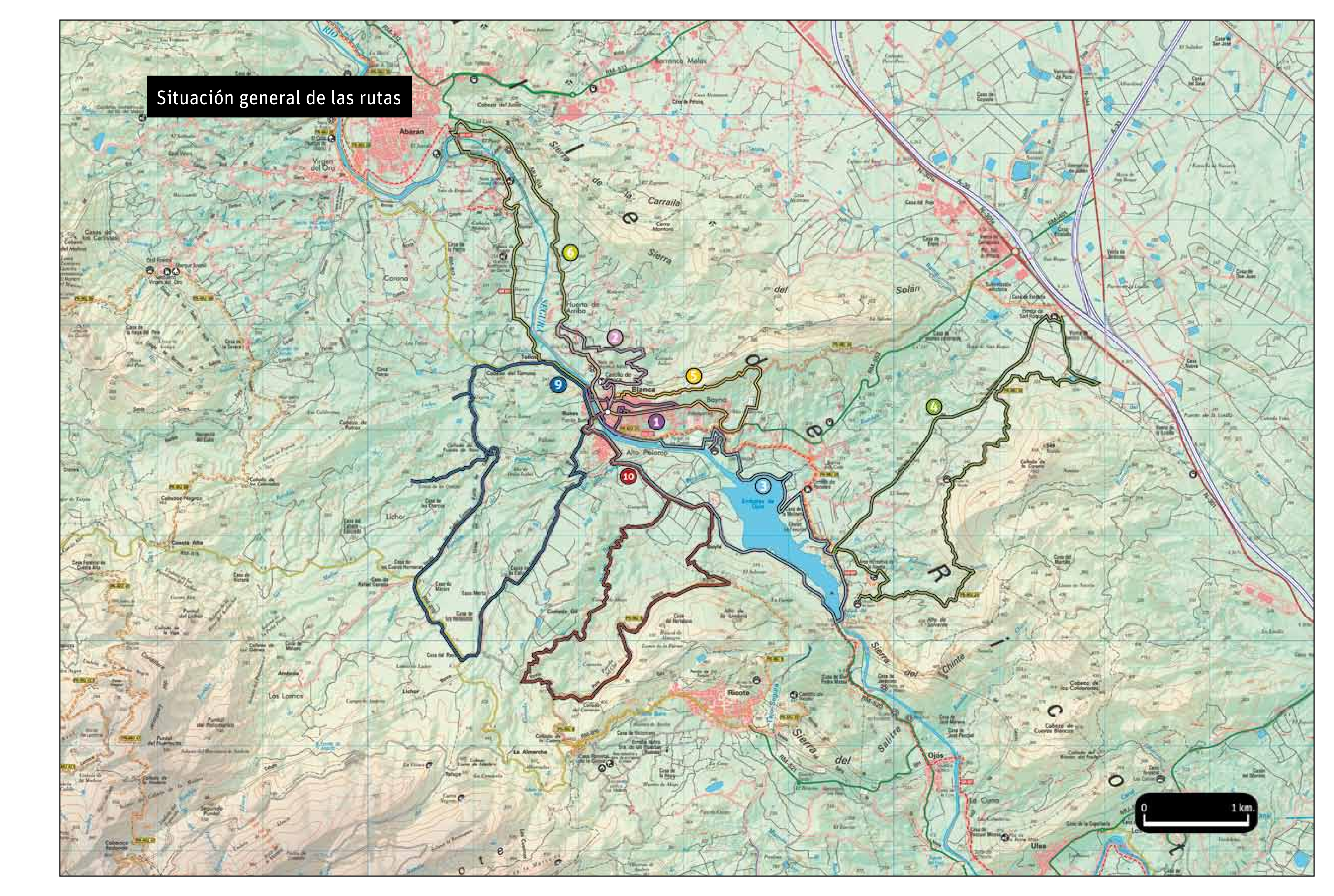
or white colorations begin to appear on the carved walls that appear high up from time to time and in which you can beautifully appreciate deposits of various materials carried by the water in strata that have survived water erosion. Next there is a small esplanade that can be flooded. Avoid it on the right side (C). There are places where plaster creates harder sheets that fold into a dark material similar to a giant desert rose (D). Shortly afterwards you'll see a terraced esplanade for cultivation through which the now extinct pathway of Ojós (Vereda de Ojós) passed, where you will turn left.

3. Vereda de Ojós (0.5km) For half a kilometer follow the old route of the animal pathway of Ojós (Cañada de la Vereda de Ojós), one of the numerous cattle passes that formed the backbone of the territory. Most of the road is eroded by water, which means that you will have to pass through different heights (E).

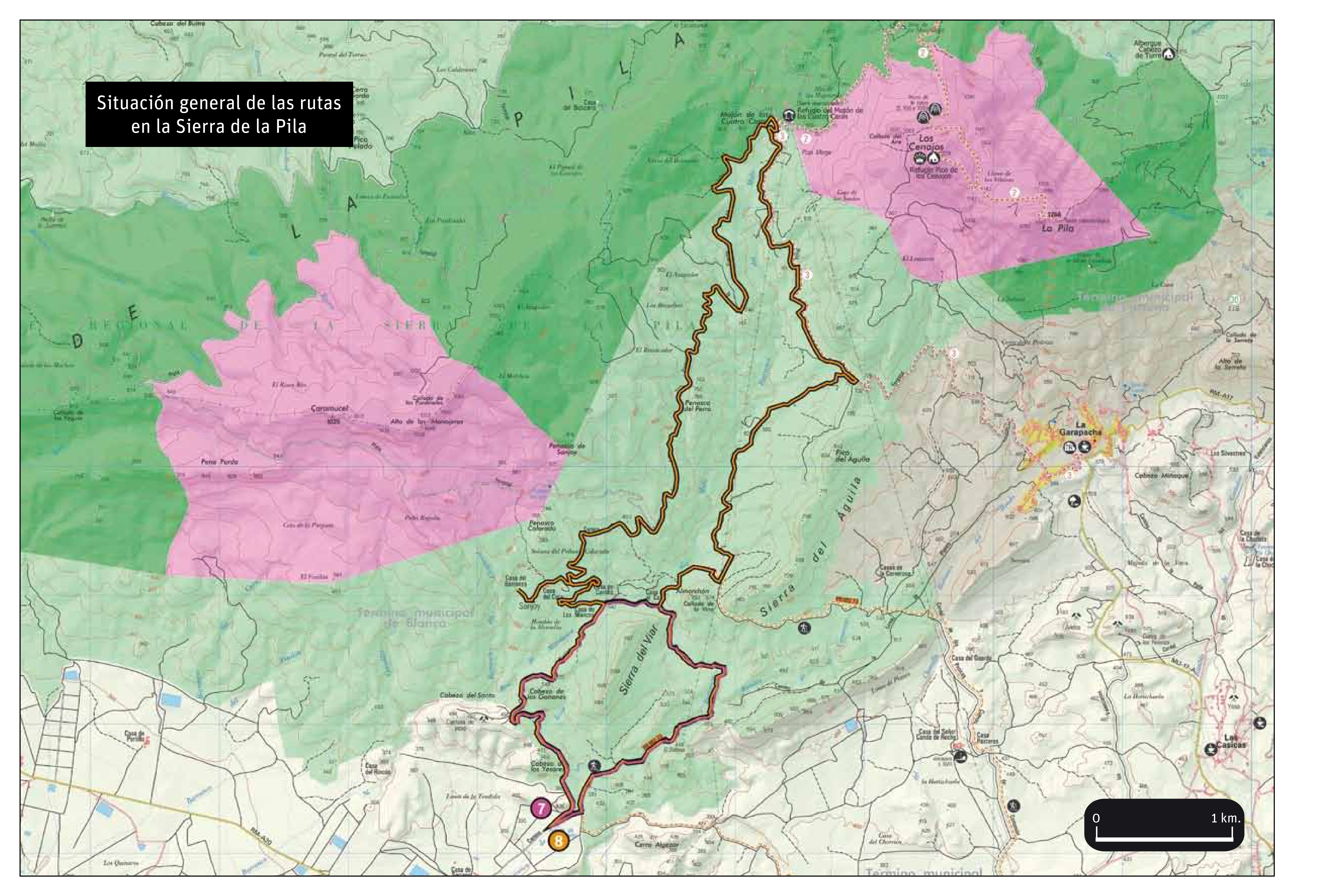
4. The forest path (2.6km) Turn left again on the forest path, following the signs for the PR MU8 or Senda de los Moriscos (F). After two and a half kilometers you will reach the foot of the Ventanica de Ojós where you will have to turn left into a clearing in the forest to take the old PR MU36.

5. The old PR MU36 (1.2km) In just over a kilometer you will descend about 170m. A small esplanade in the final section offers beautiful views of the reservoir, the surrounding orchard, and Sierra de la Navela, which ends in the Solvente Strait where the river Segura continues to enter the municipality of Ojós (G). In this esplanade there is a path to the right and two to the front. Choose the one further to the left to reach the MU250 road.

6. The MU520 road (2km). Make the way back by the same road by which you reached the dry riverbed (rambla).



Situación general de las rutas
Abarán
Blanca
Ricote
Ojós
Ulea
Sierra de la Carrasla
Sierra del Solán
Sierra del Chinte
Sierra del Salitre
Lichor
Los Lomos
La Almarcha
Alto Palomo
Huerta de Arriba
Embalse de Ojós
1
2
3
4
5
6
9
10
0
1 km.



Situación general de las rutas
en la Sierra de la Pila
Los Cerrojos
Refugio Pico de los Cerrojos
Refugio del Mojón de los Cuatro Caras
La Pila
Caramucel
Alto de los Manojares
Peña Parda
Peñasco de Sanjoy
Peñasco Colorado
Peñasco del Perro
Pico del Águila
Sierra del Águila
Sierra del Viar
Cabezo de los Gañanes
Cabezo del Santo
Cabezo de los Yesares
Almorchón
La Garapacha
Cabezo Miñaque
Los Casicas
Casa del Señor Conde de Rocha
Casa del Guarda
Cerro Algezar
Término municipal de Blanca
0
1 km.
7
8

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